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LITERATURE

My Life and Recollections. By the Hon. Grantley F. Berkeley. Vols. III. and IV. (Hurst & Blackett.)

SEQUELS to stories are generally failures, and the concluding volumes of Mr. Berkeley's 'Life and Recollections' will form (save in a few chapters) no exception to the rule. There is matter in the work that might have floated one volume into favour; but the remainder is mere bookmaking of the commonest description. To fill up the measure of his Life and Recollections the author thinks it worth his while to go back to ancient history; to complete his own book he condenses the lives and reminiscences of half-a-dozen writers who have preceeded him; and, to save himself trouble, he disregards all chronological order. Indeed, "Chronology" is a horse he is unable to ride: in his first series the author made Edward the Confessor come after William the Conqueror.

Moreover, Mr. Berkeley has missed an opportunity which would have rendered him good service with all classes of the public, whose favourable judgment is worth earning and deserving. The fact is, that the author has not profited by the very lenient criticism which was given to all but the very worst offences in his first series. There were some offences which criticism could not ignore, and pretty plain language was assigned to the acknowledgment of very extraordinary acts. Could the writer only have had the good sense to confess, what he must necessarily feel, that he was altogether wrong when he exposed his mother's character, repeated anecdotes which dishonoured his father, published the secret confided to him by poor L. E. L., and recorded deeds as praiseworthy which impartial judgment has decreed to be otherwise,—he would have stood in a position with the public which he does not now occupy. Mr. Berkeley has chosen another course. He defies the critics whose honest outspokenness was intended for his good. He talks, in his bad old style, of using the whip where Byron used his pen. He laughs, too, at his censurers, but so spasmodically that one can see how deeply he is hurt; and he argues that he was right in the course he took, inasmuch as his book was commercially a success. Later, indeed, in reference to a silly work by the Marchioness of Londonderry, at whom he sneers, with questionable taste, he warns us not to believe in such success as a guarantee of either literary or moral excellence. Scandal and "very distinguished authors" are certain to find a large amount of patronage. With these feelings Mr. Berkeley not only haughtily avoids amendment, but unnecessarily repeats, with aggravation, his old offences. That most unhappy woman, his mother, is again arraigned for alleged crime, which a son should be the first to conceal. All the old Berkeley quarrels, scandals and slanders are re-told, with painful amplification. The provocation to this, no doubt, is the pamphlet published by Mr. Berkeley's brothers, legitimate as well as illegitimate, in defence of their common mother's good fame, against his attacks upon it. These concluding volumes are disfigured by the violent reply to the pamphlet in question; and they are still more heavily weighted by the additional and painful story of the author's wife. "I married a Roman Catholic," he says; "at least, I then thought so; but she proved to be a Jesuit!"—and we are thereupon called to listen to a story which, like many other family details laid bare by the writer, had

better have remained untold,—no matter on whose side lay the right or the wrong.

Mr. Berkeley has none of that heroic element which enables a man to bear his ills, real or imaginary, in patient secrecy. He exposes his alleged wrongs as mendicants do their sores, and this continually. We come thankfully now and then upon a pleasant page, but only to find the pleasure marred by the sound of the whip, metaphorically administered, or a malediction flung at some hypothetical offender. There is, ever and again, a monotonous howl, or an unmanly whine at the author's fancied misfortunes, or at the supposed cause of them. It is but just to add, that once or twice Mr. Berkeley grows sorry and ashamed. The reader's pity is aroused on these occasions for an old man who pauses in the record of his wrath, to pray that God may pardon him for the unseemly phrases he had flung, in his day, at poorer and weaker men, and who—even after stripping naked and mercilessly lashing the alleged crimes of those whose kinship with him should have been spoken more tender treatment—suddenly breaks out into this mixed cry of anguish and conceit:—"It is not only painful to, but it is also beneath me, to deal in harsh expressions, or even to bring to light the folly or faults of those who, could I have been permitted to obey the promptings of my heart, would ever have been the nearest and the dearest to it." Mr. Berkeley, nevertheless, stoops to what he allows is beneath him. It is, however, of his idiosyncrasies, in whatever position he stands, to have a point of advantage, if he can, over his adversary. Of this he makes no secret. It is from his own description we know that in his duel with Dr. Maginn, where both parties were bound to fire without direct aim, Mr. Berkeley took "slight aim" at his gallant adversary, and has, probably, since thanked God that the aim was ineffectual.

To turn from matters which occupy far too much space in these volumes, we may notice that when the writer treats only of his personal experiences in general society, he is often amusing; and when he deals with field subjects and natural history, he is as successful as men usually are who have something to say, and are able to say it. His style, indeed, has not improved; his ignorance is as astounding in the second as in the first part of his memoirs. One individual who figures here is Mr. Musters, "Jack Musters," who married Byron's Mary Chaworth. Mr. Berkeley says that Jack was "one of the best of fellows." This thorough gentleman of the early part of this century was, however, an habitual blasphemer, and as rude as any commoner ruffian. If any gentleman rode too close to his hounds, "Musters would blow up very severely, making his remarks tell on any personal defect in the offender which might at the moment catch his eye." Musters assumed the name of Chaworth, and became known to his friends as "Cheek Chaworth," "from the habit of making liberal and emphatic use of strong language, when put out." As a specimen, Mr. Berkeley gives the following: "There goes that d——d parson," he roared, as a lame clergyman was quitting his presence, "he's as deformed in his mind as he is in his body. He always rides over the hounds. The devil won't have him at any price!" We further know what sort of "gentleman" this was, when we find his tenants "would have liked him better had he been less fond of falling in love with their wives and daughters." Mrs. Chaworth had to endure "the constant infidelities of her husband"; and this blasphemer, seducer, troubler of other

homes, and destroyer of the peace of his own,—as it would appear from these pages,—is pronounced by the author to have been "one of the best of fellows." There is none worse than he limned in Mr. Berkeley's gallery, except perhaps George, Prince of Wales. When he appears, the pages ring with "by G—ds!" and "d—n me's," and "d—n you's." The author, we hope, feels that the first gentleman was, in fact, a blackguard; "but," says Mr. Berkeley, "there is no absolute necessity for my coming forward as his apologist; but I cannot forget that he was my godfather." This is strictly true. Mr. Berkeley takes care that his readers shall not forget it either. Then, he is as ready to give sketches of his own character as to take those of other people. Whether he is quite aware of the light which falls upon his figure on these occasions may, perhaps, be doubted. We hardly recognize a "gallant sportsman" in one who thus paints himself and doings in that character. "I once found," he says, "a bitch otter in the Efford stream, in the act of making a couch for her young. Old Palestine, from the Grafton kennel, found and disturbed her in the midst of it. At her we went for seven hours and a quarter, with constant views, and during that time, on a stump overhanging the river, she miscarried, and gave birth to two cubs, born a few days only before their time." We do not suppose that even sportsmen of the old school could be blind to the atrocity of *sport* like this, for, as Peachum remarked to his daughter, "they always let the hen partridges fly." Coursing and hunting of hares ceases, at an appointed season, out of regard to nature. The most inveterate poacher takes an aspect of dignity when compared with the man who could, for seven long hours, hunt down this poor otter at such disadvantage. Why should the otter be denied the truce which is not denied to the vixen? The vixen's mate is called by Mr. Berkeley the "gallant fox"; here, again, is a sample of ignorance, for the fox is born a sneak, grows into a thief, lives a murderer, and dies a coward.

Mr. Berkeley, who has complained, in his time, of judgments passed on his own character, passes very summary "censure" on the characters of his friends. After reading his own ideas on religion, we are impressed in a particular way when he says that, "neither Lord nor Lady Holland entertained what deserved to be called religious opinions." He writes of another friend, "Nothing seems too extravagant to be believed of the late Lord Londonderry, for he succeeded to the title of his celebrated half-brother,"—which is as queer a ground for the belief alluded to as we ever remember to have met with. Even ladies do not escape this censor of morals. He makes a note of the "glaring deviation from fact" which marked the assertions of his dear friend, Lady Blessington; and, unwilling to lose the opportunity of striking another woman, adds that, "in these deviations, Lady Blessington very much resembled her once celebrated countrywoman, Lady Morgan." This euphemism for "lying" is made in the worst taste, and Lady Morgan being described as "once celebrated," recalls to us another wonderful touch of character regarding Prince Albert, of whom Mr. Berkeley seriously speaks as "the lately-lamented Prince Consort."

But Mr. Berkeley's "deviations from fact," made through ignorance of course, are quite as remarkable as those of any of the hospitable friends upon whom he sets his brand. In 1836 Lady Blessington occupied Gore House, which became, so the author writes, "the head-quarters of the demi-monde,"—in other words, of disreput-

able people. Lady Blessington, we learn, "could triumphantly display unquestionable evidence of the extraordinary regard her dear friends either did or pretended to entertain for her." Among the friends whom Mr. Berkeley seems to consider as of the *demi-monde* which had Lady Blessington for queen, he names Lords Normanby, Durham, Chesterfield, and Castlereagh. "I do not recollect seeing the Duke of Wellington at the *conversazioni*"; but the author recollects the presence of other renowned men. "Prominent among these were the two great Lord Chancellors, Lyndhurst and Ellenborough." It is to be regretted that Mr. Berkeley does not tell us how Lord Ellenborough looked in the year 1836, when Lady Blessington first occupied Gore House, and whether he was colder in manner than before his death in 1818. It would have been as well, too, if Mr. Berkeley had enlightened us as to when the great Chief Justice became a Lord Chancellor. The name of Ellenborough is not on Lord Campbell's list, but Mr. Berkeley may know more about it than that erring biographer. His own powers of memory are superior to those of ordinary men. This consequence of uncommon distinctness (or indistinctness) of observation is illustrated in the earlier volumes, where we find him remembering George Selwyn and Horace Walpole, both of whom, however, were dead several years before Mr. Berkeley was born. Every page, indeed, of this work implies that the author enjoys a knowledge of things much superior to that of his readers. He tells us with the air of Sir Oracle, that Selwyn was not distinguished for genuine wit, that Lady Hester Stanhope was a mere adventuress, that the subject of African discovery is a bore, that the gorilla is M. du Chaillu's first cousin, and that Louis Napoleon would have had more of his liking if he had shaped the foreign policy of France more in accordance with Mr. Berkeley's feelings. With regard to another potentate, Beau Brummell, the author does not pretend to give us any additional information; but he takes society very severely to task for submitting to the dictation of the "son of an upper servant," and he bites his thumb at that society for "its mad approbation of a servant's son." Brummell's father was an honest steward, his mother an honest woman of good family; and it is a law, sacred to the heralds, that a man's *blood* is of his mother rather than of his sire. If the maternal *tap* be muddy, that of the son partakes of the taint; and no boy at Eton or man at Oxford ever made unpleasant comment as to this genealogical matter on their fellow collegian. Mr. Berkeley's appreciation of nobility is so excessive that he not only has a horror of upper servants' sons, like Brummell, but he even confers titles on men who would have despised them, and he accordingly elevates the old political agitator "*Wilkes and liberty!*" into "*Sir John Wilkes*," whose "profanity," he says, "was extremely coarse and sensual!"

But the author's appreciation of nobility is nothing compared with that he entertains for lovely woman. There is something left to us amid all the disappointments of life. Lovely woman will still "come to our arms"; but the author sighs to think that he can no longer ask her to drink wine with him. He groans at the change in the old fashion which once permitted a man to salute the lady to whom he was introduced. The sight of woman's thick, silky, beautifully-waved and bright black hair, not flowing over the back, but "tied up in the manner of a road-waggon horse's tail"—that sight, he says, "drives me almost frantic." This species of chivalry in an individual who is "drawing towards" seventy must not be con-

sidered as altogether ridiculous. Mr. Berkeley has exalted opinions touching the relations of man with woman. One of his ancestors, in a work called 'Meditations,' remarks—"He that truly values the honour and reputation of his female friend will be very cautious lest by any act of his indiscreet affection he should lessen her good opinion in the world. A man ought to lose much of his satisfaction rather than she anything of her honour." The Hon. Grantley F. Berkeley adds of his own to this rule of his ancestor these words: "I need not say how entirely I concur in this beautiful principle, nor to what extent I have endeavoured to guide my conduct by it through life." It is not at all necessary; we would gather the proofs of his concurrence from this account of his practice:—

"I remember some fun we had at Cheltenham, just at the time that to take a man's arm was deemed wrong on the part of a pretty girl. Between me and the dried-up Dragons that gave their name to the chairs in which they were drawn about, there was a perpetual animosity. In walking up the promenade, whether I was personally acquainted with the Dragons or not, their eyes were for ever fixed on me—so much so, that I adopted the plan of winking at them, and then turning my face 'here, there, and everywhere,' in the direction of pretty petticoats, so as to make them parties to imaginary love affairs. By persisting in thus tormenting them, I am quite sure I got less of their public supervision, and sent to the M.D. and the surgeon no end of apoplectic patients. On one occasion, some dear and most intimate friends of mine came to Cheltenham—none of them personally known in that lively town—and we walked from the High Street, or from the Plough Hotel, up the promenade together. Papa and mamma went first, and then having permitted many people to intervene between them and us, by a preconcerted agreement, the young and handsome daughter and myself came arm-in-arm together, having agreed to look most lovingly at each other the moment a Dragon chair was about to meet us. One wizened old lady stared so unforgivingly hard at me and my companion that I winked in her face, and nodded as if in confidence towards the beauty on my arm, causing the latter to burst into such a merry laugh that it sent the old lady off gasping as if for very life."

This may be a peculiar method of carrying out the "beautiful principle" of the ancestral philosopher; but commonplace people will be inclined to think that, for the satisfaction of Mr. Berkeley, young ladies at Cheltenham, of whom he had no knowledge, and the friend's daughter who hung on his arm, were made to suffer in their reputation. Mr. Berkeley subsequently says of gentlemen in the park, that "not one in fifty of the equestrians are able to manage themselves or the brutes they ride." This is mere idle nonsense. The author's perceptions, however, are not always so greatly at fault. He does not think that Mr. Tom Taylor did truly and fairly by his country when he invented such a witless buffoon as Lord Dun-dreary, to be laughed at by the Americans as a specimen of an English nobleman. Mr. Berkeley has also a very proper contempt "for the man, however hospitable, who dares to ask me to have some sherry, when the bottle he pushes before me holds nothing but marsala." His contempt for institutions is as great as it is for individuals:—

"As for the 'Garrick,' every one knows the headquarters of the heroes of the sock and buskin—that house of call for dramatic critics—that 'rest and be thankful' for general mediocrity. It includes every description of man, from eminent tragedians down to insignificant lords—always living together in the most free and easy manner possible, till somebody's dignity is touched too rudely—and then, ye gods! the disturbance that ensues!"

Mr. Berkeley, it would seem, does not intend

to abandon literature. Let us, by the way, recommend to him a work by which he might gain honour and the public much pleasure. The last Lord Berkeley, of Stratton, left a manuscript diary, which Lord Colchester, in his, praises for its wit and good stories. To edit this would be honourable and useful employment. Meanwhile, Mr. Berkeley tells us he is writing a comedy, and to the intimation of this fact, he adds—

"There is a clergyman at a funeral in one of Hogarth's pictures, that I shall paint to the life in my play: there is one, did I say, there are indeed some dozens whom I shall make to strut their hour on the stage. Time was when congregations were content with one; now we must have a clerical regiment ranked on either side the way to the altar, all doing little bits of the service, as if sinners could not be saved unless by a ladder of men on whom to ascend to heaven."

We need not point out to our readers the prevailing style in which the book is written; but, in fairness, it must be allowed that the style of these volumes may be accounted for by the early training of the author as he has himself depicted it. There is certainly no smack of the schools, more of the saddle-room in it. The author says of one of his friends, "Though not a reading man, he was very fond of music, and possessed a very fine voice," which seems odd. Mr. Berkeley speaks, too, of "that species of sport which Dr. Johnson has defined as having a fool at one end and a worm at the other." This is a good sample, not only of the confused slipslop of the figures of speech, but of the singular misappropriations of the authorship of smart sayings which pervades the work. The author occasionally puts sentences together without any regard for sequents and antecedents. "The Beef Steak Club," he writes, "had its origin in an extemporized banquet provided in the painting-room of one of the theatres, and grew to be so fashionable a repast that men of the highest position were glad to share in it." Fashion would find the Club, we fancy, somewhat hard to digest. That Mr. Berkeley should be found as weak in foreign languages as he is in his own is but natural; and we only smile good-naturedly when he tells us that Lady Londonderry "gave *conversazioni* and this *dansante*." As for his allegories, they are as headstrong as any on the banks of the Nile. We gaze on, without comprehending them. "My friend, Sir Percy Shelley's, new and very pretty theatre at Boscombe," we are told, "is an evergreen oasis in that desert of dullness, the fashionable watering-place in its vicinity." It may be so, but how a house in one place can be also an oasis, or anything else, in an adjacent place the author does not explain. He is clever, too, in making discoveries which less clever people could never make; and he even professes to have found an account of the funeral of George the Fourth's wife in "Willis's 'Memoirs of Queen Caroline,'" a book which certainly has no more existence than the High-Life-below-Stairs "Shaksprur," writ by Ben Jonson." We must notice further, that the Jesuits have had a very narrow escape of annihilation at Mr. Berkeley's hands. "But here again, as in the interests of the peerage, I am restrained from my connexion with those who unhappily are Jesuits" (the wife and female friend who left his house together), "from giving to that order the full measure of its well-deserved punishment." The order may cry *Jubilate*, for Mr. Berkeley has full cognizance of all its doings, and might have treated the members without mercy; but as he perspicuously says, "I abstain from lashing their backs, bare as the nature of their correspondence has exposed them." When Mr. Berkeley married Miss Ben-

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field in 1824, he was not yet an M.P., nor very well qualified for Parliament, "for," he says "at that time I knew not the difference between Roman Catholic and Jesuit!"

We commit this book to the further consideration of the public.

Eastward. By Norman Macleod, D.D. (Strahan.)

A Hundred Days in the East. By A. B. Black. (Shaw.)

THESE two books of travel are written by Scottish ministers, whose lines of observation in Egypt and Palestine were pretty much the same. Dr. Macleod sailed from Marseilles for Alexandria, ran up the Nile to Cairo, crossed to Suez, and, returning to Alexandria, took sea for Jaffa, whence he rode to Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Jericho—to Nablus, Nazareth, Tiberias and Damascus—and so came home again. Mr. Black also sailed from Marseilles to Alexandria, visited Cairo and Suez, returned to Alexandria, took the steamer for Jaffa, whence he rode to Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Jericho—to Nablus, Nazareth, Tiberias and Damascus—and so came home again. The ground traversed is so very nearly the same, that the two volumes may be profitably read together by those who are curious to see how profoundly sacred objects may strike the senses of observers who belong, by birth and education, to the same class. Both writers are gentlemen of taste and culture—keen observers—pious commentators. In both cases we may assume that a commendable spiritual design carried them into Palestine. Dr. Macleod is a man of hearty humour, abounding in animal spirits. Mr. Black has a more sedate and steady nature. In both observers there is found a vein of genuine, unobtrusive piety, which fits the individual who would study and explain "the ways of God to man" in the home of all sacred story.

Here, with a hearty announcement and commendation of two pleasant volumes, we might end our notice of 'Eastward' and 'A Hundred Days'; for neither Dr. Macleod nor Mr. Black pretends to be an original thinker and discoverer. But the day has come for putting our knowledge of Palestine—and particularly that of the Sacred Sites—on a safer foundation than satisfied our fathers. We may, therefore, take the opportunity of drawing attention to a disputed point of sacred geography, which we have already touched on a former occasion.

We refer to Cana—the scene of the marriage feast, and of the first miracle of our Lord. Most modern writers have gone astray on this subject, not willfully and with knowledge, but in blind obedience to Robinson and to his ablest follower, Mr. Porter. We have already stated at length—when dealing with Robinson's posthumous work, 'The Physical Geography of Palestine'—the history of this strange error; and it will suffice, for the present, if we recall the principal points.

Within a few miles of Nazareth there are two places which contend for the honour of being considered the Cana of St. John's Gospel; or, to speak with legal accuracy, there are two places on behalf of which contention is made by European critics. On the spot there is no contest. The natives have not heard of the controversy. The Arabs have an immemorial tradition in favour of a particular site as that on which the Great Nazarene Prophet turned water into wine. The Greeks have more than a tradition; they have memorial stones, the ruins of a church and convent, going back to a remote antiquity. Arabs and Greeks agree that the miracle took place at Kefr Kana—village of

Cana; standing on a low hill, close by the Roman road from Sephoris to Tiberias and Capernaum. Everything is in favour of that site; local tradition, material evidence and literary testimony. Kefr Kana stands between Nazareth and the Lake of Galilee; and every reader of Josephus and St. John must see that Cana lay on the road between Nazareth and the lake. Christ comes to Cana on his way from Nazareth to Capernaum. The centurion comes to it on his way from Capernaum to Nazareth. Josephus hurries from Cana to Tiberias by a secret night march; evidence that it stood on the Roman road, with no walled city between it and the lake. The Syrian Christians never lost the knowledge of this sacred place; early in date they built a shrine in honour of the marriage feast, which shrine St. Willibald visited and described in 722. There can be no question of the locality which he indicates, for he says in express words that he went to Cana on his way from Nazareth to Mount Tabor. Four centuries later (1102) Sewulf described the same village and shrine. From generation to generation the Church of the Marriage Feast remained in evidence; it was mentioned by Quaresmius in 1629; and its foundations may still be seen by those who seek them. It would seem, then, that the evidence in favour of Kefr Kana being the real site of Cana of Galilee is, of its kind, perfect. Why has it come into question among western critics?

The answer is not hard to find. Robinson, the American traveller, carried into Palestine an unreasoning distrust of the native church. He thought of a Greek very much what a Parisian thinks of him. He was prepared by habits of thought to regard Greek traditions with exceeding jealousy, and to set them aside on the slightest provocation. Unhappily for Robinson, an ignorant Venetian in the fourteenth century, one Marino Sanudo, had made a rough sketch-map of Palestine for the use of imaginary crusaders, in which he had put Cana between Nazareth and Tiberias. Sanudo's tract was circulated through the courts and convents of Europe by the monks; and hence the error with regard to Cana crept into many maps; among others into the plan of Galilee given in the Geneva version of our English Bible in 1611. Sanudo had never been in Palestine, we believe; and his error was exposed by the Christians on the spot; particularly by Quaresmius, who surveyed the localities in dispute, examined all the evidence then open to him, and decided finally in favour of Kefr Kana. From that time, controversy was quiet, until Robinson, in an evil hour, fell upon the old map of Sanudo. Enough for him that it was in opposition to native belief and to the cherished memories of the native church. He revived Sanudo's error; and in a spirit of the most singular self-delusion found in the ancient writers evidence for his mistake. Mr. Porter adopted his error; put it into the 'Handbook of Syria,' into Smith's 'Dictionary of the Bible,' and into Kitto's 'Biblical Encyclopædia,' from which it has passed into innumerable modern books. A reader who will take down John, Josephus, Willibald, Sewulf, Mandeville and Quaresmius, as well as Sanudo, can satisfy himself on this point in an hour.

We commend this literary exercise to Mr. Black, and will undertake to say that when he has weighed the authorities, he will come round to our opinion that on this point, at least, the Eastern Church is right and the Western critic wrong.

The Five Great Monarchies of the Ancient Eastern World; or, the History, Geography, and Antiquities of Chaldaea, Assyria, Babylon, Media, and Persia. Collected and Illustrated from Ancient and Modern Sources, by George Rawlinson, M.A. Vol. III. (Murray.)

THE first volume of this work was reviewed by us so long back as February, 1863. In that volume the First and Second Monarchies, Chaldea and Assyria, were dealt with. The second volume continued and concluded the account of the Second Monarchy, Assyria, and came under our notice in March, 1864. The Third and Fourth Monarchies, Media and Babylonia, are the subject of this third volume, as the Fifth Monarchy, Persia, will be of the fourth and last. Hitherto the interest of the book has gone on increasing, and it may fairly be expected that it will culminate in the account of Persia, where Sir H. Rawlinson to whom the author is so much indebted, is most at home.

Media, according to Mr. Rawlinson, contained about 150,000 square miles, and was bounded, on the north by the Araxes; on the west by that part of Zagros which separates the Urumiyah from the Van basin, and by a line drawn through the centre of the same range in its more southerly part; on the east by the spur of Elburz, in which lay the Pylæ Caspiae, and by the Salt Desert; and on the south by the line of the thirty-second parallel. The character of this great region is described by Strabo as high and cold for the most part, and we are here told that the mountains are bare, arid, and forbidding, and the plains brown and treeless,—as well they may be, since for so many centuries the charcoal-burners have toiled incessantly at destroying every tree unprotected by an inclosure. Yet sterile Media was the mother of a hardy race of men, who played a great part in Old-World history, and contained in her bosom some cities of celebrity, such as the two Ecbatas and Rhages. Of these cities an interesting account will be found in these pages. Northern Ecbatana is surmised to be the modern Takht-i-Sulaiman, in the upper valley of the Saruk, a tributary of the Jaghetu, which falls into the Lake of Urumiyah. Here are important ruins, none of which, however, are thought to be of a date anterior to the Sassanian kingdom. Southern Ecbatana, or Hagmatana, is with more certainty alleged to be the modern Hamadan, where pillar bases, resembling the Persepolitan, were seen by Sir H. Rawlinson in 1839. Here was a famous palace, built probably by Cyaxares. As to the description which Herodotus gives of the palace of Deices, our author thinks that it is either a pure myth, or applies to another city, the Ecbatana of the northern province. "The account," says Mr. Rawlinson, "is wholly at variance with the natural features of the neighbourhood, where there is no such conical hill as he describes, but only a plain surrounded by mountains." With this remark we cannot entirely coincide. The Musalla hill is certainly not conical, but it is a very considerable hill, and appeared to us, without actual measurement, to be about 200 feet high, and 600 yards long. Nor can we assent to what is said of the site of the modern town, which seemed to us to be just where Diodorus places the ancient city, viz., at about 12 stadii from Elwand, and not, as here described, "directly at the foot of the mountain, on ground sloping slightly away from its roots."

After dealing with the geography and topography of the country, Mr. Rawlinson next describes its products and animals, birds, fishes,

and reptiles. In this part of his book he is less happy, as might have been expected, since no amount of reading can quite make up for the want of actual experience. We very much doubt whether the lion can be reckoned among the wild animals of Media. Among the birds, the woodcock ought not to be omitted, and the hoopoe is by no means so rare as is here represented. Trout not only occur in the streams of the Elburz, but are excessively abundant, and salmon, which are not catalogued here, are caught in the *sufid rīd*, and perhaps in some other streams. Among insects, the *Acarus Persicus*, or Miāni bug, deserves especial mention, as does the venomous spider called *rutel*, the bite of which is said to be mortal, and which is extremely common; but Mr. Rawlinson has omitted all mention of them.

The chapters on Median history, antiquities, and names, which follow, are highly interesting, as is also the account of the old religion of the country. According to this author, the religion of the Arian nations, when still undivided into Medians and Iranians, was a polytheistic Nature-worship. The Median or Iranic system was a "revolt from this sensuous and superficial Nature-worship," by a recognition of spiritual intelligences, real persons. Hence arose Dualism, and the personification of the two parties to the struggle, a white and holy, and a dark spirit. This Arian faith came in contact with Magism in Media, and absorbed "all the chief points of the Magian belief, and all the more remarkable of the Magian religious usages." The Magi gradually acquired a predominating influence at the Median court, and "practically the Magian doctrines and the Magian usages, elemental worship, divination with the sacred rods, dream-expounding, incantations at the fire-altars, sacrifices whereat a Magus officiated, seemed to have prevailed."

The question of language, which is slightly touched upon in this volume, will be descended on more at length in the next. "From the discussion then to be raised may be gathered the general character of the speech of the Medes."

Babylonia comes next to be treated, and is declared to be the "alluvial tract towards the mouth of the two great rivers of Western Asia, the Tigris and the Euphrates, which intervenes between the Arabian Desert on the one side, and the more eastern of the two streams on the other." This tract of 27,000 square miles, but little larger than the Netherlands, was, for a brief period, the seat of a great empire. About B.C. 625, Media and Babylonia divided between them the territories of Assyria, and to Babylonia fell the southern and western portions. The people who inhabited this region were, according to Mr. Rawlinson, a mixed race, that, in addition to Cushite and Turanian blood, had a slight dash of the Semitic and the Arian element, even before the Arabian invasion of B.C. 1518. But by the time the second empire was established, in 625 B.C., the Semitic element had so prevailed that the Babylonian race had become a mere variety of the Semitic type.

In tracing the glories of the Babylonian monarchy, our author, perhaps, exaggerates a little. His description of the great works constructed by Nebuchadnezzar must be taken *cum grano*. A reservoir, 140 miles in circumference, and 30 fathoms deep, is a little too much for human hands in one man's lifetime, and ought rather to be ascribed to Jins and Afrits. It is something of a hyperbole, too, to say that the human race owes its civilization to Nebuchadnezzar; yet it would follow from the statements of the author pieced together. In one place he tells us, "It is scarcely too much

to say that, but for Babylon, real civilization might not even yet have dawned upon the earth." In another we read that, "but for Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonians would have had no place in history." But after all due deductions made, enough remains to prove that the Babylonian king was one of the greatest monarchs of ancient times, and the account of his reign here given deserves to be studied, with the new light which recent discoveries have thrown upon it. In the vast Babil mound, and in a hundred sites about Babylon, all the inscribed bricks bear his legend, and the building of the great wall ascribed to him, which contained 500,000,000 square feet of solid masonry, would alone be a work sufficient for the glory of a line of kings. While on this subject, we must acknowledge that Mr. Rawlinson seems to us to have completely disposed of the question as to the Birs-i-Nimrud being the Belus temple. We say so with regret, for no traveller who has visited the spot can have failed to have been struck with the way in which the ruins fulfil all that the imagination requires, not only for the appearance of the temple, but also for that of the old Tower of Babel. There is no resisting, however, the arguments against identifying the Birs with either of those famous structures, as stated by our author. He says, speaking of the Babil mound:—

"Its size moreover corresponds well with the accounts which have come down to us of the dimensions of the Belus temple, and its name and proximity to the other main ruins show that it belonged certainly to the ancient capital. Against its claim to be regarded as the remains of the Temple of Belus two objections only can be argued:—these are the absence of any appearance of stages, or even of a pyramidal shape, from the present ruin, and its position on the same side of the Euphrates with the palace. Herodotus expressly declares that the Temple of Belus and the royal palace were upon opposite sides of the river, and states moreover that the former was built in stages, which rose one above the other to the number of eight. Now these two circumstances, which do not belong at present to the Babil mound, attach to a ruin distant from it about eleven or twelve miles—a ruin which is certainly one of the most remarkable in the whole country, and which, if Babylon had really been of the size asserted by Herodotus, might possibly have been included within the walls. The Birs-i-Nimrud had certainly seven, probably eight stages, and it is the only ruin on the present western bank of the Euphrates which is at once sufficiently grand to answer to the descriptions of the Belus temple, and sufficiently near to the other ruins to make its original inclusion within the walls not absolutely impossible. Hence, ever since the attention of scholars was first directed to the subject of Babylonian topography, opinion has been divided on the question before us, and there have not been wanting persons to maintain that the Birs-i-Nimrud is the true temple of Belus, if not also the actual tower of Babel, whose erection led to the confusion of tongues and general dispersion of the sons of Adam. With this latter identification we are not in the present place concerned. With respect to the view that the Birs is the sanctuary of Belus, it may be observed in the first place, that the size of the building is very much smaller than that ascribed to the Belus temple;—secondly, that it was dedicated to Nebo, who cannot be identified with Bel; and thirdly, that it is not really any part of the remains of the ancient capital, but belongs to an entirely distinct town. The cylinders found in the ruin by Sir Henry Rawlinson declare the building to have been 'the wonder of Borsippa'; and Borsippa, according to all the ancient authorities, was a town by itself—an entirely distinct place from Babylon. To include Borsippa within the outer wall of Babylon is to run counter to all the authorities on the subject, the inscriptions, the native writer, Berossus, and the classical geographers generally. Nor is the position thus assigned to the

Belus temple in harmony with the statement of Herodotus, which alone causes explorers to seek for the temple on the west side of the river. For, though the expression which this writer uses does not necessarily mean that the temple was in the exact centre of one of the two divisions of the town, it certainly implies that it lay *towards the middle* of one division—well within it—and not upon its outskirts. It is indeed inconceivable that the main sanctuary of the place, where the kings constantly offered their worship, should have been nine or ten miles from the palace! The distance between the Amran mound and Babil, which is about two miles, is quite as great as probability will allow us to believe existed between the old residence of the kings and the sacred shrine to which they were in the habit of resorting."

As to the natural history of Babylonia, Mr. Rawlinson is a less sure guide than he is respecting the antiquities and ancient history. We note several inaccuracies. Thus, the humming-bird is entered in the list of birds of the region. But the Trochilidae are not found out of America.

On the whole, Mr. Rawlinson has accomplished his work, thus far, admirably; and though he shines with a reflected light, since the merit of the new discoveries belongs to his brother, still he is entitled to much credit for the diligence with which he has followed up the advances of the pioneer. We cannot leave the subject without expressing regret that Indian officers should have ceased to be employed in Persia, where there is still room for much research. Since Sir H. Rawlinson left Tehran, English influence has altogether declined in Persia, and correct information, even about passing events there, seems not to be procurable. Thus it has been recently stated that the oppression to which Jews are subjected in Persia was not known till within the last few months at the Persian Court, an announcement which must provoke the smiles of every European who has resided in Irán.

NEW NOVELS.

Greatheart. By Walter Thornbury. 3 vols. (Hurst & Blackett.)

HAVING tried his hand at historical romance in novels that illustrate three distinct periods, Mr. Thornbury now, for the first time, gives us a work of prose fiction descriptive of modern society; and we are able to congratulate him on the considerable measure of success that attends his attempt in a new direction. In selecting for the principal scenes of his tale Cornwall, and especially that part of Cornwall which may be called the Boscastle country, he has chosen ground familiar to artists and tourists, who will gladly refresh their pleasant recollections of a wildly picturesque district by the aid of an able landscape-painter in words. In his choice of characters he has not been less fortunate; though he has unquestionably diminished the interest of his story by encumbering its action with a crowd of subordinate personages and unmanageable supernumeraries. Some of the privates in this army of actors are Cornish miners and peasants; but the conspicuous places in the drama are assigned to London writers and artists, country gentlemen and students, women of the world and young girls, making holiday in and near Boscastle.

The style of the descriptive parts of the story is marked by the tricks and mannerisms which gave Mr. Thornbury his distinctive place amongst writers who are not displeased to hear themselves called word-painters. "Round at last" opens the first volume, "however, went the scarlet target-signal, and in roared and raced the dilatory and fussy train. A great puff of exulting white vapour burst from the engine

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funnel—the myriad wheels slackened—the buffers beat together and rebounded—the stoker lifted up his brass-bound cap, wiped his grimy brow, and nodded to a friendly porter—a dozen handles turned simultaneously, and out leaped the irresistible passengers." Elsewhere in the volume, with equal force and the same characteristic vivacity, Mr. Thornbury describes the starting of a railway train:—"At that moment the train gathered itself together—all its jolting vertebrae began to move—out flew the great white banner of steam—the doors slammed—the flag was shaken—up went the station-master's hands—the stoker pulled at his taps as if he was drawing beer—there was a kissing of hands, a last word or two, a shout, and off went the train, leaving the two Tollpeddans at the further end of the platform, surrounded by mountains of luggage." That this mode of writing satisfies every critical requirement, even Mr. Thornbury's admirers will hesitate to assert; but no one can deny that it enlivens, and produces results.

The chief faults of the story are its almost total want of plot, the feebleness of its feminine portraiture and the absence of central interest; but these defects are more than atoned for by clever writing, hearty playfulness and manly tone. The hero, unlike most heroes of novels, would be an agreeable friend in ordinary life; and the ending of the tale disappoints neither the wishes nor the expectations of the reader.

A Thousand Miles in the Rob Roy Canoe on Rivers and Lakes of Europe. By J. Macgregor, M.A. With numerous Illustrations. (Low & Co.)

The taste for peculiarity in travel, which during some years past has increased, is readily explicable by our increased facilities for moving about the world, and their consequence, our want of elbow-room and the power of calm enjoyment of home or foreign scenes for those who cannot tolerate interruption from those hordes who rush abroad in a spirit of restlessness. Travellers who seek for refreshment after hard labour are naturally indisposed to the gossip and second-hand gaiety of an Interlachen boarding-house, or the polyglot *table-d'hôte* crowd of a monster hotel. In proportion as they are sociable by nature, will they shrink from the vapid small talk, the rushing about in droves to see this cathedral or that snow-peak,—will rebel against that mechanical dictation of their course, which is inevitable to these "mass movements." Ease and cheapness of intercourse, if viewed on the sentimental side of the subject, are not without their drawbacks; and the passion for breaking away from routine becomes proportionally strong in those who cannot bear to have their enthusiasms mapped out for them. That it runs off into eccentric paths is, of course, to be looked for. We recollect with amusement the ride on horseback of Mrs. Dalkeith Holmes across France, when so little prepared were the country folk in out-of-the-way places for such amazonship, that they called her "*Cela*," in doubt as to the rider's sex. We have not forgotten the quaint and crotchetty '*Cruise on Wheels*' of Mr. Charles Collins. Only the other day we had to deal with Miss Eyre, who seems enchanted with trudging on foot about the Continent with next to no money, and in a very bad temper. We recall

Mistress Harriet Martineau's wonderful dictum as to Eastern travel, that of course the only way for any lady to see the Desert was for her to walk! And here we meet a good-natured, intelligent roamer, who asseverates on his word and honour (and makes up no bad case to boot) that the one true way of enjoying foreign parts

is to "take your canoe and your paddle," set off alone, get your boat carried over corners and meadows, when awkward rapids, weirs and other impediments are to be avoided; be jolly with all and sundry; make the most of the sensation your singularities excite; and, in fact, "go in" for "the water privilege" in a free, easy, yet fatiguing fashion.

There is no criticizing humours of the kind beyond observing that the pleasure of the act of moving from point to point obviously supersedes that given by the things which are to be seen. Madame Ida Pfeiffer revelled in the mere fact of getting from place to place, no matter what were the difficulties; but her experiences as a traveller were utterly worthless, so absorbed was she in what may be called the machinery of her journey. And our merry Mr. Macgregor is so pre-occupied with his "Rob Roy" and his paddle, and the skill with which by "laughing, nodding," and giving tracts he made friends wherever he went, and found folk willing to carry and to house his boat,—that his book resolves itself into a harmless, amusing and lively song of jubilation on an odd theme. Shall we next have a Canoe Club, to match our Alpine Club?

Assuredly, there is little scenery which pays the lover of minute observation better than that of rivers. The tributaries of the Rhine alone are well worthy of intimate acquaintance on the part of those who do not desire when out on a holiday to "put a girdle round about the earth in forty minutes." The minor French rivers, too, are also worthy of an attention not yet given to them; to instance two, which are widely apart, the Erdre and the Charente. While speaking of strange water-paths, we must put in a word of protest against our paddler's wholesale abuse of canals. Those in Friesland and North Holland have an out-of-the-world, picturesque character of their own sufficient to make any open-minded man forget the flatness of the land and the stillness of the water. But that constant bodily work and the ceaseless necessity of providing against unforeseen emergencies must preclude the possibility of that collecting of pictures, that accumulation of thoughts, that conversion "of money into mind" (Wordsworth's graphic phrase in characterization of travel), which, to us at least, is the richest gain from travel,—one of which no one can be despoiled so long as reason and memory avail him, is a fact self-evident,—at least not disproved in this book. The game bagged by Mr. Macgregor during his thousand miles of sport on continental waters is but "small deer." The sportsman is obviously a genial, healthy-minded man,—one of those who, encountered away from home, make an evening hour pleasant, and keep up the fair character of England (dismally battered during late years abroad), and as such we genially accept his testimony.

We may fairly promise this book no common favour from those who delight in manly sports and athletic exercises, and do so with all the greater pleasure because its author announces his intention of devoting his profits in it to two admirable and useful charities, "The Royal National Life-Boat Institution" and "The Shipwrecked Mariners' Society." The illustrations are spirited and good, and help to bring Mr. Macgregor's manner of travelling more clearly before the reader.

"The Sham Squire" and the Informers of 1793; with a View of their Contemporaries. To which are added, Jottings about Ireland Seventy Years Ago. By W. J. Fitzpatrick. (Dublin, Kelly; London, Hotten.)

For a long period, the name of the man who had betrayed Lord Edward Fitzgerald baffled

the research of those who desired to gibbet it. The discovery was made at last, and without doubt; government documents relating to secret service money in Ireland, and the doings of those who earned it, have fixed the infamy, for ever, on Francis Higgins,—pot-boy, attorney's clerk, justice, proprietor of the *Freeman's Journal*, and unparalleled liar, in or out of Ireland.

But in making this discovery, it has been found that Higgins did not stand alone in his infamy. Where money by the half-million was given to purchase a service of rascality in aid of government, there was no lack of candidates for the office. In the corrupt times of the last century, when revolution was afoot, the Government was able to purchase the very souls of men. It bought a portion of the Irish press, and vexed the tender feelings of that part which was unbought. Friend betrayed friend, the priest betrayed his flock, there was no man who felt safe, and where there were but a couple of conspirators, each suspected the other. Full details of these matters are given in Mr. Fitzpatrick's record. Such a chronicle of rascality has seldom been compiled with equal zeal, to do dishonour to the land wherein it was accomplished and paid for.

Although there can be no doubt that the volume is of considerable interest, the details, too loosely put together, are sickening. Anything more damaging to Irish credit, and to the reputed Irish aversion for an informer, cannot well be imagined. We are glad to get away from the fraternity of men who were betraying one another for money. Suffice it to say, that as far as regards Lord Edward Fitzgerald, it is now proved that Higgins, who was called the "sham squire," from having in his early days of poverty pretended to be a real one, in order to marry the hapless young creature who became his wife, employed a barrister and "zealous Catholic patriot" Francis Magan, to "set" the young lord. Between the two, Magan being a pretended friend of Lord Edward, the aristocratic revolutionist was betrayed, and Higgins seems to have cheated his friend Magan out of the larger portion of the blood-money.

The roll of traitors is a long one, whether the affair of Lord Edward or that of young Emmet be considered. As this unmitigated rascality passes before the reader, he may particularly distinguish Dr. Frederick Jepp, the "Irish Junius," the patriotic "Guatimozin," who sold his pen to Government for 300*l.* a year. Solicitors to United Irishmen were also government agents. Conway, the Cork silversmith, and Capt. Armstrong helped to bring the brothers Sheares to the gallows, and reaped their reward. Lawyers like Leonard M'Nulty and M'Guicken talked rebellion, furthered rebellion, died with the name of "patriot" cleaving to them, and have since turned up in state papers as government agents, receiving recompense for betraying "traitors." Giffard, the apothecary, also acted two parts in the serio-comic drama, and served, perhaps betrayed, both sides. Dr. Brennan, the eminent Roman Catholic writer, was in the receipt of 200*l.* a year from Government, for satirizing the chief men of his own, or his supposed, party. In short, half the rebel agents were government agents also; while there were some men with "bloodhound instincts," like Dr. Waddy, who no sooner knew that a friend was on the path of rebellion, than he ran that friend down, and consigned him to death or captivity. This perfidy was as rampant in 1803, when Emmet's followers began the pacification of Ireland by murdering Lord Kilwarden, as it had been in 1798, when the leader of the rebellion, Lord Edward Fitzgerald,

was betrayed by one of his apparently zealous supporters. Mr. Fitzpatrick asserts that this sort of treachery was practised and paid for in the revolutionary attempt in 1848. "Some of the seemingly staunchest hearts in Smith O'Brien's movement of '48, were false to their chief and colleague, and, when the crisis came, suggested to the police magistrates, that in order to preserve consistency and keep up the delusion, they ought to be arrested and imprisoned." With this paragraph in our memories, we cannot wonder at the all but universal belief in Ireland that the late Fenian attempt to overthrow the government was betrayed by Head-Centre Stephens himself. His very unheroic capture, his (rather indiscreet) declaration at the close of his trial, that no Irish prison could hold him, and his subsequent "release," as his evasion is generally designated, have taught that part of the Irish public who have read the history of Irish rebellions to look upon the Fenian Stephens as the arch-traitor who has ruined the whole affair. His re-appearance at the American head-quarters of Fenianism would not persuade many Irish people to the contrary. The actual knowledge that he was undoubtedly undergoing penal servitude would alone convince them that he was a thorough Fenian after all.

The manners and morals of the last century, in Ireland, had worse influences on the people than mere oppression. Example did not teach edifyingly from high places. When Lord Santry was condemned for murder, his cousin, Compton Domville, threatened that if Santry was hanged, he (Domville) would deprive Dublin of its supply of fresh water. He was in a condition to carry out his threat, and the assassin's life was spared. It was a time when archdeacons wrote drinking-songs and rectors sang lyrics, and when gentlemen of high social position committed acts which they looked on as mere jokes, but which would now consign them to prison and infamy. Senators were bought to vote in direct opposition to the speeches they had just uttered; a peerage was often the price of infamy, and some of the very judges on the bench were more deeply dyed in criminality or meanness than many of the more ignorant men whom they rebuked from the judgment-seat. Most readers will be surprised at hearing of the Duke of Wellington being once tried in Dublin for stealing a cane from a Frenchman! Young Wellesley had had words with the latter, and wrested the cane from his hands, refusing to return it. He was acquitted of the robbery, but found guilty of the assault. As a sample of bygone manners we have Col. St. Leger taking up, after dinner, the well-used finger-glass of the Duchess of Rutland, and drinking off the contents in her honour. The Colonel merited the ducal remark as to the draught he might have, at night, from her Grace's foot-bath. Those were drinking times, and Counsellor, or Bully, Egan was one of the hardest of drinkers, but not after the fashion of Col. St. Leger. On one occasion, he took a large fee, and promised to drink no wine on the day of trial till the contest was over; which promise the Counsellor evaded "by eating large quantities of bread soaked in wine." This practical lie does not seem to have been censured. Violence characterized all proceedings, not unmixed with some eccentricity. Power, Baron of the Exchequer, had been condemned, for embezzlement, by Lord Chancellor Clare; he attempted to murder Lord Clare, failed, and in his disappointment walked down to a river, to drown himself. It rained at the time, and Baron Power was so careful of the body he was about to plunge into the river, as to open his umbrella, in order to keep that body from

the rain. Of a greater man, but of less rank, Grattan, we find that he practised firing at a mark, of course in order to murder those whom he might meet in duel. In the "domestic Parliament," which Mr. Fitzpatrick calls "Ireland's brightest gem," there was violence of language enough to render duels of daily occurrence. We are told of a member saying to the Speaker, in reference to a certain family, "Sir, they are all rotten, from the hon. member who has just sat down, to the toothless old hag that is now grinning at us from the gallery." The aged lady thus treated by the parliamentary blackguard was the assailed member's mother. The "fine old Irish gentleman" was, assuredly, not an exemplary person. "No gentleman paid his debts," says Mr. Fitzpatrick; who further informs us, that tradesmen compensated themselves for non-payment by charging exorbitant prices!

As an addition to the social and political history of Ireland, Mr. Fitzpatrick's volume will be found both amusing and instructive. A future edition would be improved by a more skilful disposition of material, and a revision of the references. Of some of his personages, he often tells his readers too little. Of one, indeed, he tells us something new, namely, that O'Beirne, afterwards Bishop of Meath, was the clergyman who married the Prince of Wales to Mrs. Fitzherbert. We should like to know the authority for this alleged fact. The author also notices, incidentally, the marriage of the Dowager Duchess of Leinster to Mr. Ogilvie, her son's tutor. He should have added Margaret Cecil's saucy comment on that much-canvassed match, namely, "The Duchess has done well. It was high time for her to make an honest man of him!"

The Hebrew Scriptures. Translated by Samuel Sharpe. Being a Revision of the Authorised English Old Testament. 3 vols. (Whitfield, Green & Son.)

EVERY attempt to amend the English version of the Bible, for the purpose of bringing it nearer the original text, should be welcomed by scholars, students, and general readers; by the last class especially, because they are more dependent on the work of learned men in this department than such as are able to read Hebrew and Greek for themselves. And every fresh translation, either of a portion of the Scriptures or the whole, is at once a contribution and an incentive to the future performance of a work which will eventually supersede our authorized version, because it will be better. To this consummation we are gradually tending—slowly, indeed, as might have been expected—but not the less certainly. It will be seen hereafter, that our Lowths, Blaynes, Geddeses, Wellbeloveds, Sharpes, and others, have not laboured in vain, having been the pioneers of an important national version.

Mr. Sharpe is not a novice in translating the Scriptures. His version of the Greek Testament from Griesbach's text has been before the public for years; and its excellence is attested by the sale of several editions. To complete his plan he has now published the Old Testament. The peculiarities of the present translation are, the division of the books into paragraphs, that of chapters and verses being discontinued; the arrangement of the poetical portions in short verses or parallel lines; the printing in italics of passages quoted from earlier books; the marking of speeches with inverted commas; and the insertion of stars in broken sentences, where some words appear to be wanting. He has also marked the beginning of new matter by words

in capitals; and by means of a black line has called attention to an abrupt change of subject. Besides, the Hebrew letters are put at the beginning of the lines of alphabetical poems; and stars in the margin indicate the parts written in Chaldee. In the text he has made considerable use of square brackets, which include explanatory words and dates. All these are ingenious and simple expedients to throw light upon the meaning, and to serve as a Commentary in a certain sense. By introducing greater exactness into the text he shows many peculiar features which others consign to commentaries and notes. The method adopted is consistently carried out, and will help many readers. By economizing space, and compressing his meaning into a word or two, the author has succeeded in throwing considerable light on the sense of Scripture. His version will be found most useful in the illustration of ancient manners and customs, in geography, history, chronology, and antiquities. These are subjects that seem to have a peculiar attraction for him; as we might infer from his other works.

The author has done wisely in not venturing on any considerable change in the words of our authorized version, except where he believed that he had the support of Biblical scholars in altering it. The less departure from language so endeared to the national mind, the better.

The work will be found superior to the version of Wellbeloved, Smith and Porter, to Benisch's, to the unfinished one of Geddes; and to any preceding revision of our English translation. Good judgment, common sense, extensive knowledge, considerable learning and ingenuity, are seen throughout it. The author has not innovated very extensively; where he has done so, it is often for the better. As the meaning of the sacred writers can never be made too transparent, the translator deserves the thanks of all for his important contribution to its exhibition.

A few examples of correct translation may be noticed.—

"SIMEON and LEVI are brethren; Instruments of cruelty are *their swords*."

"Embrace Purity, lest he be angry

And ye perish from the way."

Perhaps "Kiss the chosen one" would be still better. The phrase is confessedly difficult.

"He was taken from prison and from judgment; and who of his generation considered it!"

As specimens of insertions in square brackets: "[Armenia]" is put after Ararat in Genesis viii. 4; "[Xerxes I.]" after Ahasuerus in Esther i. 1; "[or 200 ounces]" after four hundred shekels, in Genesis xxiii. 15; "[or the broom-bushes]" after Rithmah, Numbers xxxviii. 18; "[or bushel]" after ephah, Levit. v. 11; "[A.M. 2668]" follows at the end of the 430 years in Exodus xii. 41.

While we often agree with the translator, and attach value to his work, there are passages where the true sense seems to have escaped him; and explanations are occasionally inserted which are hardly correct. Thus, in Job xix. 26, he has "out of my flesh shall I see God," for *without* my flesh. In Psalm xvi. 2, "I said unto Jehovah, Thou art my Lord and my goodness; nothing is above Thee," &c., should be, "my happiness rests upon Thee only," as Kamphausen rightly renders. In Genesis xlix. 6, "and in their self-will they rooted up a Prince, should be, "they houghed oxen." In Malachi iii. 1, after "my messenger" is put the explanation *Malachi*, who is not meant. *Elijah* was the expected messenger. Mr. Sharpe follows our version in the same passage in keeping "even the mes-

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senger," which yields a wrong sense; "and the messenger." He should have forsaken our version oftener, as in Genesis iv. 6, "If thou doest well, *shalt thou not be accepted?*" which should be, "If thou dost well, then lift up thy face openly," i.e., be of a cheerful countenance; and in Psalm lxxvi. 10, "the remainder of wrath thou wilt restrain," instead of, "with the remainder of wrath thou girdest thyself," i.e., it is thy ornamental dress. Gesenius improperly takes it to mean *thou girdest on the remainder of thy wrath*, as if for an extreme case; whereas it is the wrath of God's enemies which He converts into his ornamental dress, and so makes it honour Him. In like manner the words of our version in Genesis xvi. 13, are retained, "Have I also here looked after him that seeth me?" instead of, "Do I then even see here after the vision?" equivalent to, "Am I even alive, after Jehovah has been seen by me in this place?"

The volumes are creditable to the talents and industry of the translator. We hope that a second edition may enable him to introduce other improvements, and to make various corrections. A work of this nature is susceptible of almost endless amendment.

NEW POETRY.

FROM the general tone of *Disappointed Aspirations: a Satire upon the Present State of Literature; and other Poems*, by F. A. White, Esq., B.A. (Pickering), we gather that Mr. White's verses must be taken seriously. It is true that he calls the first poem in his book "a satire," and we were half inclined to suspect that it was meant for a quizzical caricature of certain living poets. But, besides that the evil of spasmodic poetry is now a good deal abated, its wildest flights are so outdone here that we lose even the likeness of burlesque between the satire and the thing satirized. Moreover, we find that Mr. White's strains are no less alarming and eccentric in other poems, where there is not the least reason to suspect him of irony. By the word "satire," then, we fear, he means not a travesty of the faults of other writers, but an invective against the criticism, public or private, which has pointed out his own. His hero, a disappointed poet, thus raves out his sufferings:—

This heart—it is no heart: it is an ulcer,
And from it hangs a snake; a fungous growth,
'n'ts hell-born issue that with matrividous tooth
Hisses and bites at every jarring beat.
That slimy, tender sore—my heart—is mother.
Oh, if the surgeon's hand outside is torture,
What must the bite be of that snake within?
From pity's healing touch I shrink in pain:
Oh, scorpion heart, how shall I dwell with thee?
Thou iceberg floating in a lake of fire,
Thou flame-lured moth, thou snake-attracted rabbit?
Oh, brazen-walled fortress of a Titan!
Oh, brain, this dizzy whirlpool of despair,
Here and hereafter black as endless midnight,
Impotent rage, and woe, and grinning wrong,
Cannot stick under, but thou still sit in him,
Nor can the bolts of heaven make thee tremble!

We could quote other passages compared with which the foregoing is sane. No nightmare, we think, ever equalled in grotesque terror the piece entitled 'The Two Vatheks,' in which frenzy, touching the point where extremes meet, passes into fun. A few good and even powerful lines might be found in the book, but it would be difficult to point out a coherent page. Nor will we guarantee our readers against uneasy feelings, even if they take refuge in the author's comic vein, as in the piece called 'The Christmas Holidays.' Here the occasion, one would suppose, is a merry one; but when little boys and girls express themselves as follows, we are forced to suspect the presence of brain disease:—

NED—*You don't mind our larkin',*
Do you, pa—sweet papā—
My own sweet papakin'! [Kisses him.]

LOOKEY—*It's only mamma,*
With her tintamarra,
Nasty, cruel mamma!

Let us assure Mr. White that we have given his volume the full hour's examination claimed in his Preface. We have a faint idea that he is some wealthy humorist who has published his effusions for the joke of seeing how the world will treat them.

It is pleasant, after the stunning cataract of verse from which we have just escaped, to come in contact with the truer and gentler inspiration shown in *Romances, and Minor Poems*, by Henry Glassford Bell (Macmillan & Co.).—Mr. Bell's course of song flows, as it were, under a subdued sky. Now it winds on calmly and picturesquely, if not brightly; anon, a sudden ray of wit or geniality glints on it; and, again, some thought sadly sweet swirls and drops on it like a red leaf in autumn. Most of these poems, whether they be mediæval legends, snatches of travel, or modern pieces of blended pathos and humour—the class in which the writer most excels—have the excellent qualities of unity of idea and careful finish. The pensiveness which thoughts of Change and ever-lapsing Time engender is the spring of many effusions. Still, the thinker is by nature kindly and hopeful, and thus we have strains of mirth just touched with sad suggestion, like the following:—

MY VIS-À-VIS.

That olden lady!—can it be?
Well, well, how seasons slip away!
Do let me hand her cup of tea
That I may gently to her say,
"Dear madam, thirty years ago,
When both our hearts were full of glee,
In many a dance and courtly show
Had you for my vis-à-vis.
"That pale blue robe, those chestnut curls,
That eastern jewel on your wrist,
That neck-encircling string of pearls
Whence hung a cross of amethyst,—
I see them all.—I see the tulip
Looped up with roses at the knee,
Good Lord! how fresh and beautiful
Was then your cheek, my vis-à-vis!
"I hear the whispered praises yet,
The buzz of pleasure when you came,
The rushing eagerness to get
Like moths within the fatal flame;
As April blossoms, faint and sweet,
As apples when you shake the tree,
So hearts fell showering at your feet
In those glad days, my vis-à-vis.
"And as for me, my breast was filled
With silvery light in every cell:
My blood was some rich juice distilled
From amaranth and asphodel:
My thoughts were airier than the lark
That carols o'er the downy lea;
They well might breathlessly remark,
"By Jove! that is a vis-à-vis!"
"O time and change, what is 't you mean?
Ye gods! can I believe my ears?
Has that bold portly person been
Your husband, madam, for twenty years?
That six-foot officer your son?
Who looks o'er his moustache at me!
Why did not Joshua stop our sun?
When I was first your vis-à-vis.
"Forgive me, if I've been too bold,
Permit me to return your cup;
My heart was beating as of old,
One drop of youth still bubbled up."
So spoke I: then, like cold December,
Only these brief words said she,
"I do not in the least remember
I ever was your vis-à-vis."

In the more serious lays we expect and find a higher tone of feeling. Amongst pieces of this kind may be specially named the two romances with which the book opens, the poem called 'The Wayside Crucifix' and the stanzas on 'The Inevitable,' which, though breathing sorrow, breathe also the faith that overcomes it.

Mr. Bell's verse is often so musical that his defects in this respect are the more surprising. They occur at times, however, even in his lyrics, while in his blank verse pieces—'The Nameless Earl,' for instance,—they are unpleasantly conspicuous. Still, the book contains some of the pleasantest examples of minor verse which

we have lately seen; and should a new issue be demanded, the writer may easily correct such faults of rhythm and metre as we have pointed out.

Whoever reads only the first poem in *Lyrical Fancies*, by S. H. Bradbury (*Quallon*), (Moxon & Co.), is likely to lay down the book with a distaste that further acquaintance with it would remove. The rise of genius or conspicuous worth from a lowly to an exalted condition is a romance which, having its source in human nature, will re-appear, in one shape or another, until the end of Time. It is, however, a mere burlesque of this romance to paint the love of an Earl's daughter for a peasant, who has nothing remarkable about him, except his name of "Juvol," and who nowhere displays that superiority of nature which rightly triumphs over social distinctions. The reader, however, who turns from the somewhat fatuous suicide of "the Lady Vale," from the "stately Geraldine," the enchanting "Lady Gertrude,"—in short, from Mr. Bradbury's pictures of aristocratic beauty altogether,—and confines himself to the descriptions of Nature in the book, will find passages for which he will thank its author. Even in the poem last named a good deal of common-place tinsel is half redeemed by a touch like this,—

Lightly she'll kiss the lilies that stand
In a morning dream of dew!

—The pieces in which Mr. Bradbury appears to most advantage are 'Come again' (an invocation to summer), 'Frost on the panes,' and 'In the Autumn of the Year.' But why does he so often leave out his articles? He should know a "better trick" than this to preserve the metre of his verse. The halting sense which he thus produces is as bad as the halting sound which he too cheaply avoids.

There are poems of merit enough to make us sigh that they have no more—poems which show feeling, grace of description, and tolerable finish of style, but want that robust individuality which insures permanence. On this list we must place *The Quadrilateral* (Saunders, Otley & Co.),—*Euthanasia*, by Erasmus H. Brodie (Longmans & Co.), the first canto of a poem which commemorates the enterprise of Sir John Franklin,—*Clarkson Gray, and other Poems*, by Mrs. James Morton, illustrated (Edinburgh, Nimmo);—and *Tales, Songs and Sonnets*, by J. W. Dalby (Longmans & Co.).—In *Lancashire Lyrics: Modern Songs and Ballads of the County Palatine*, edited by John Harland (Whittaker & Co.), we have a very creditable and interesting collection of local verse, in which the names most conspicuous are those of Charles Swain, W. Harrison Ainsworth, Samuel Bamford, John Bolton Rogerson, John Critchley Prince, Mrs. Banks, Mrs. Hobson, and the Editor. The reader, however, should not overlook the piece headed 'Aw connt dry my een, Robin,' by the late John Scholes—a poem of humble life, written in the Lancashire dialect, with simple pathos and great truth of description. It is far superior to any ballad in another collection made by the same editor—*The Songs of the Wilsons*, &c., edited by John Harland (Whittaker & Co.). The best of these songs have some vigour, and give a faithful catalogue of certain scenes and incidents; but they want neatness of expression and the touch of true humour. Still, it is fair to say that a portion of the Lancashire public esteems them more highly than we do, and has called for them in the new and complete form in which they now appear.—*Home Scenes and Heart Memories*, by John Blackman (Wilson), are the production of a yeoman's son, and display not only much feeling and love of Nature,

but also a cultivation of style to be commended in one who has pursued his way under difficulties.

Ten Years in South-Central Polynesia; being Reminiscences of a Personal Mission to the Friendly Islands and their Dependencies.
By the Rev. Thomas West. Illustrated with a Portrait and Maps. (Nisbet & Co.)

In few parts of the world have Christian missionaries of all denominations been more successful than in the Pacific Ocean. Whole groups of islands, which at the beginning of this century were still addicted to paganism, are now Christian, at least nominally; and they have even sent out native missionaries of their own to parts of Polynesia as yet unchristianized; as, for instance, the Hawaiians to the Marquesas Islands, and the Tonguese to Fiji. The progress is so uniform and rapid, that within another generation most of the Pacific Islands will have laid aside heathenism. All now required is mere matter of £. s. d.; for in Polynesia there are not, and never were, any such obstacles to overcome as in India or China, where our missionaries, with such superficial training as their colleges impart, find themselves confronted with religious and philosophical books and systems, devised, emendated, and written by great minds, and handed down with all that authority which great antiquity never fails to lend them in the eyes of the multitude. The South Sea Islanders had no sacred writings, no philosophical school. All their religious knowledge was transmitted by tradition, and respect for it was enforced by a system of "taboo," by which offenders against any religious regulation were severely punished, generally by working upon their fears in such a way that they were taken ill and often died. As long as the different islands preserved their isolation from the rest of the world, the taboo system and the religion it upheld worked very well; but no sooner had Captain Cook's voyages opened the Pacific, and European ideas penetrated there, than the whole fabric began to totter. In the Hawaiian or Sandwich Islands, after the taboo system had been once broken through, scepticism made such rapid strides, that for a time the natives absolutely lived without any religion whatever. It was after the whole pagan structure had thus been rudely shaken, not to say swept away, that the Christian missionaries made their appearance, and carried everything before them.

In the Tongan or Friendly Islands, north of New Zealand, the way had been prepared in a similar manner, and the native mind was already in a state of ferment before the mission work to which the present volume relates was commenced. As there was in the Holy Roman Empire, or in modern Japan, a spiritual and a temporal head, so there was in Tonga, besides the temporal power, as represented by the chiefs, a spiritual head, who was called "Tui Tonga," and who claimed direct descent from the gods. What happened in the German Empire on a large scale was repeated in Tonga on a small. Whenever the spiritual head was powerful the temporal power was weak; it was a continual see-sawing of parties, by which the general prosperity of the country could not but suffer. In the beginning of this century one of the temporal kings felt himself powerful enough to abolish the divine chiefdom of Tui Tonga altogether. Fancy the progress made in religious enlightenment, when the people could thus do away with their pope! We are indebted to Mariner, an English sailor-boy, who lived some years amongst the

Tonguese, was initiated into all their ideas, and wrote one of the most interesting books of travels ever brought out, for the particulars of this bold step. The king conceived, we are told, that there was very little public utility in what was supposed to be the divine authority of Tui Tonga, but that it was, on the contrary, a great and useless expense. The measure did not prove very objectionable to the people, as it relieved them from a very heavy tax. Protestants wishing to abolish the Papacy could hardly use any more forcible arguments than these islanders did on this occasion. We are told, "In regard to the religious objections against the endeavour to set aside an institution so ancient, so venerable, and so sacred as that of Tui Tonga's divine authority, it must be noticed that Tonga had, for many years, been deprived of the power, presence and influence of Tui Tonga; and, in the eyes of the King and people, it appeared to be not less favoured with the bounties of Heaven than the other islands. If Tonga could exist without this divine chief, why not Vavau or any other island?" The argument proved so strong that the office was finally abolished. Some few entertained religious scruples; but the bulk of the people readily supported the measure, especially as it relieved them of an oppressive tax.

Data are wanting for tracing the progress of decay which the native religion, after that event, was undergoing; but we know that the gods were but slightly esteemed when the gospel began to be systematically preached. This state of affairs rendered missionary labours comparatively easy. Conversion was also facilitated by the natives already possessing a code of ethics of which much could be retained. The old religion, insufficient as it was to meet their spiritual wants, nevertheless inculcated respect for the gods, nobles and aged persons, honour, justice, patriotism, friendship, meekness, modesty, chastity, parental and filial love, patience in suffering, forbearance of temper. Immortality of the soul was also guaranteed by their religion, at all events to the chiefs and upper classes; though there was a similar doubt about the souls of the lower classes. In this respect the Tonguese religion strongly contrasted with the Fijian, which inculcated the belief that not only all mankind had souls, but that all things, organic and inorganic, were thus blessed. The souls of the Tonguese, after death, proceeded to Bolotu, a beautiful island to the north-west of their country. It was too far for canoes to reach, but, once upon a time, one was driven there by stress of weather, and so the exact nature of their future abode became known. The crew of this canoe, ignorant of the place where they were, and being much in want of provisions, seeing the country abound in all sorts of fruit, landed, and proceeded to pluck some bread-fruit; but, to their unspeakable astonishment, they could no more lay hold of it than if it were a shadow. They walked through the trunks of the trees and passed through the substance of the houses (which were built like those at home) without feeling any resistance. At length, they saw some of the gods, who passed through the substance of their bodies as if there was nothing there. The gods recommended them to go away immediately, as they had no proper food for them, and promised a fair wind for their homeward voyage. Accordingly, putting to sea immediately, they reached home with great speed; but, a few days afterwards, all of them died, not as a punishment, tradition adds, for having been to Bolotu, but from having breathed an air which affects mortal beings with speedy death.

The volume placed at the head of our notice touches but slightly upon the manners, customs, history and former religion of the Tonguese, so charmingly told in Mariner's pages; but gives an account of the missionary labours of the author and the other Wesleyans who assisted him in the work of conversion. It is written with little spirit, and as ten years have elapsed since he returned to England, many of the events here told have become familiar to us through other channels. The book can scarcely please any other readers than the narrow circle for whom it was specially written. We have a series of narratives of the different conversions and awakenings, which may be fit communications for missionary journals, but strung together in this way they do not make a readable book. Nor can any mind of liberal culture approve of the sneering tone in which the Roman Catholics and their religion are spoken of. The different Protestant sects which have missions in the Pacific are generally representing it as a great hardship that the Catholics should try to gain a footing, and occupy successfully various stations. The Catholics seem to have no difficulty in establishing themselves in the very midst of Protestant communities, and they are often supported more or less openly by the foreign Protestant residents. The Protestant missionaries are apt to represent all of these foreigners as bad characters; but everybody familiar with Polynesian politics knows full well the true reason why they act in concert with the Catholics. It was a pet scheme of some missionary societies to establish in the different groups of the Pacific such a state of things as the Jesuits had brought about in Paraguay, where the natives were reduced to passive obedience, and the will of the missionaries was carried out, and punishment inflicted through the chiefs. In some of the groups the experiment very nearly succeeded, and a system of puritanism was established so intolerable that no sensible foreigner could live under it without endless petty annoyance. Transgressions which we at home consider perfectly harmless were punished with great severity, and spies were kept to denounce the evil-doers. The Roman Catholic priests were, therefore, hailed in the light of deliverers, and their presence—quite apart from their teaching, with which we have nothing to do—has been of great value in upsetting a despotism pregnant with incalculable mischief to the native character. In the Tongan Islands great efforts were made to keep the Roman Catholics out; but the unfair way in which they were treated made the Emperor Napoleon all the more determined to see them placed on a more satisfactory footing. Accordingly, in 1855, he charged M. Du Bouzet, Commander-in-Chief and Governor of the French Establishments in Oceania, to conclude a convention, according to which "the Catholic religion is to be free in all the Tongan Islands, and its members are to enjoy all the privileges accorded to Protestants; all natives banished or deprived of their property on account of religion shall be at liberty to return to their homes, and their land shall be restored to them." The Tonguese, having thus, by the help of their worst enemies, as their best friends called them, obtained liberty of conscience, in the fullest meaning of the word, only required one thing more to entitle them to rank as a civilized people. This boon was conferred upon them in 1862, in the shape of a constitution, which abolished serfdom and formally recognized the rights and titles of property.

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OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Treatise on Iron Ship-Building: its History and Progress. By W. Fairbairn. (Longmans & Co.)

SHORT history, interesting experiments, mathematical theory, and Mr. Fairbairn's name as a guarantee. This is all we can say on so thoroughly professional a book: though in our day, be it observed, professional books often have pages and chapters of general interest, as this one has.

Books of the British and English Kings. Edited by the Rev. J. Glover—[*Le Livre de Reis de Bretanie e le Livre de Reis de Engleterre*.] (Longmans & Co.)

Mr. Glover supplies in his Preface all the information that the public can require as to his edition of the old historical chronicles named above. "The value of the principal work," he says, "will not lie in its authority or independence. Some few names and clauses will be found in it not in the original authorities." Mr. Glover rightly adds that the work "may be highly useful . . . to younger students." With respect to the execution of the work on his part, he says, "I have endeavoured to translate the original so literally that a boy desiring to learn how to construe early French of the English dialect might find help in the volume." This is true, but some of the passages require annotation. For example, at page 348, the anonymous chronicler says, (A.D. 1323) "Sir Roger Mortimer le graunt eschapa hors de la Tour de Loundres, e passa Tamise e se mist outre mer." This passage is rendered by Mr. Glover,—"Sir Roger Mortimer, the father, escaped from the Tower of London and passed the Thames, and fled to foreign parts." Be the meaning of "*le graunt*" what it may, it cannot allude to the father of Roger Mortimer the younger, as Mr. Glover's translation suggests. Young Roger Mortimer's father was Edmund Mortimer, and he had been dead a score of years at the period of the escape alluded to. The two Mortimers who were in rebellion against the Edward II. were Roger Mortimer the uncle, and Roger Mortimer his nephew. The more general, indeed almost universal, statement is, that the two Rogers were confined in the Tower, under a sentence of perpetual imprisonment there, but that Roger Mortimer, the younger, made his escape by giving a sleeping potion to the Constable of the Tower, and that the elder Mortimer continued in confinement till the end of his life, towards the close of the reign of Edward II. Although it could not have been Roger Mortimer's father who escaped, we are not prepared to say, despite the more widely accredited story, that it was not the elder of the two prisoners who got away from durance, seeing that an Oxford manuscript quoted by Dugdale, in his '*Baronage*' (margin) says that the elder Mortimer did escape from the Tower in 1323. If so, it was the elder Roger, uncle, and not father of Roger Mortimer, the younger. In another portion of one of the chronicles, Mr. Glover translates "*Meisme lan*" (1312). . . "comme le council generala Vienne, en temps Clemente Pape V., auquel Council l'ordre des Templiers fut defait"—by "The same year began the general Council at Vienna, in the time of Pope Clement V., in which Council the order of Templars was abolished." This celebrated Council was not held at Vienna, but at Vienne, in Dauphiné. Altogether, this volume has not the interest of many of its predecessors; but it has properly found a place in the great historical series now in course of publication.

Astronomy without Mathematics. By E. B. Denison, Q.C. (Christian Knowledge Society.)

A clever book: but we certainly should like to see it well revised. Points often arise in which young readers would be misled. For example, "It is now ascertained that light is not a thing to be created, like water, but rather a state of things, like fire or noise." This is a curious juxtaposition of the subjective and objective: it would convey no true idea. Again, we are told there would always be an eclipse at new moon if the moon were in the plane of the ecliptic: which is true. But it is added, that this is the reason why the ecliptic is so called. By no means; it was so called, not from what would happen, but from what does happen: namely, that the eclipses which do take place happen when the

moon is in or close to the ecliptic. The account given of the discovery of Neptune is exceedingly defective and distorted.

The Official Cambist; or, the Moneys, Weights, and Measures of Thirty-nine Foreign Countries, with their English Equivalents. (Wesley.)

A large table, folded up and in a cover. Take it out, stick it against the wall, and it can be used.

The Hidden Life; a Memoir of Mrs. Shirreff, Wife of the Rev. William Shirreff, formerly Minister of St. Ninian's. (Edinburgh and London.)

At the risk of being misjudged by many sincere people, we must say, that without assent to, or dissent from, any theological opinions expressed, we do not like books of this quality, in which the suspense and struggles of a scrupulous and sensitive spirit, pained in lonely hours of depression, meditation, or thanksgiving, are given to the world as so much valuable example and instruction. Every heart knoweth its own bitterness; and to us there is something too sacred in such emotions as are here minutely recorded to permit of their being bared to the gaze of a world in which every pilgrim who aspires upwards, has fears, weaknesses, and conflicts of his own. Whether real humility ever diarizes its repentance and misgivings, is one question; another, whether it is possible to do so in all simplicity. In themselves, the confidences and ejaculations of Mrs. Shirreff; her perpetual self-reproach over her frequent backslidings; her reiterated vows of self-renunciation; her enthusiastic resignation in junctures of anxiety and bereavement; her earnest petitions for special blessings (not without a belief in their efficacy which somewhat contradicts the tone of self-depreciation so largely indulged in),—have nothing to distinguish them from similar utterances which have been put forth more plenteously than wisely. By nothing that is here said do we mean to question the devout sincerity of the deceased lady; but we dissent from the taste, and consequently, the utility, of unveiling the hidden life of her soul.

We have on our table *The Headless Horseman: a Strange Tale of Texas*, by Capt. Mayne Reid (Chapman & Hall).—*Men of History*, by Eminent Writers (Edinburgh and Nissho).—*The Brown Book for 1866* (Saunders & Otley).—*The Poetical Legends of the Channel Islands*, dedicated, by express permission, to the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, by the Rev. W. Langley Pope, M.A. (Saunders & Otley).—*Walker's Pronouncing Dictionary, in which the Accentuation, Orthography, and Pronunciation of the English Language are distinctly shown, according to the best authorities; and every Word defined with clearness and brevity*, critically revised, enlarged, and amended by P. Austin Nuttall, LL.D. (Routledge).—*Dr. J. Moore Neligan's Practical Treatise on Diseases of the Skin*, new edition, revised and enlarged, by T. W. Belcher, M.A. (Longmans).—*Science and Christian Thoughts*, by John Duns, D.D. (Religious Tract Society). We have also the following Pamphlets:

New Readings in Shakspeare; or, Proposed Emendations of the Text, by Robert Cartwright, M.D. (Smith).—*The Bishops and Clerical Subscriptions*, reprinted, by permission, from the *Fortnightly Review*, with additional remarks, by the Rev. G. D. Haughton (Chapman & Hall).—*Report of the Society for the Abolition of Capital Punishment*.—*An Usurious Rate of Discount often Lures and sometimes Prevents the Working Classes from obtaining that Employment by which alone they can obtain Bread for Themselves and Families*; being a reply to Mr. Horsman, and others who have asserted that since the Repeal of the Corn Laws the Working Classes cannot complain of any Law injurious to their Interest, by Rigby Wason (Hardwicke).

MATHEMATICAL BOOKS.

Algebraical Exercises, progressively arranged. By C. A. Jones, M.A., and C. H. H. Cheyne, M.A. (Macmillan & Co.)

Two masters of Westminster School have joined to produce a neat book of examples, with answers. The public schools have no great fame for encouragement of mathematics; but if the Westminster boys are taught up to the standard of this book, one such school is without reproach.

A Collection of Problems and Theorems.....especially [on] Trilinear Co-ordinates. By H. R. Wright, M.A. (Longmans & Co.)

A book on some of the new methods of which the title contains all the explanation we can give. There is use in these special treatises.

Elements of Plane Geometry. Book I. (Edinburgh, Oliver & Boyd.)

AN attempt to improve Euclid, to some parts of which we have assented in other writers, and from some parts of which, as the mode of finding the sum of the angles of a triangle, we entirely differ. But speculation of this kind should be encouraged: it is wanted.

An Elementary Treatise on Solid Geometry. By W. S. Aldis, M.A. (Deighton.)

THEIR is not too much in this treatise, which is well adapted for beginners. The higher treatises are now loaded with matters which concern only Senior Wranglers and close failures. But there is one little defect which looks ugly: the old way of drawing co-ordinate axes with two at right angles and the third slanting. Surely writers ought by this time to know a little perspective. When parallel lines are parallel in the picture, the eye is infinitely distant, and if two of the co-ordinate axes be at right angles, the third is foreshortened into a point.

The Oxford, Cambridge, and Dublin Messenger of Mathematics. No. XI. (Macmillan & Co.)

THIS number contains a page of sad interest, "In Memoriam" of Mr. Purkiss, whose melancholy end cut short a career of unusual promise; and a paper of striking interest, Mr. Sylvester's demonstration of Newton's theorem on imaginary roots, which excited the attention of the community at large a few months ago.

The Mathematical Writings of Duncan Farquharson Gregory; with a Biographical Memoir by Robert Leslie Ellis. Edited by W. Walton, M.A. (Deighton.)

THE writings and the memoir are all reprints; we are glad to see them in one volume. Gregory and Ellis are two men of whom their University is proud: they were both inventive mathematicians, both of a strong turn for the philosophy of their science, both of the most amiable character, and both cut off in the vigour of their intellect, and almost in their youth. Both died after years of suffering, patiently endured, without any loss of mind or intermission of active thought. If the mathematicians chose to set up a claim to benevolence of feeling above other men, Gregory, Ellis, Boole, Rowan Hamilton and Peacock would be instances of great force. Here are five among the foremost of those who have died within the last twenty-one years, all men so distinguished by kindness of heart that their selection is no bad compliment to others.

Principes de Thermodynamique, par Paul de Saint-Robert. (Turin, I. Cassone & Co.)

A mathematical work on thermodynamics, a subject of increasing interest. Two hundred octavo pages of large print is not excessive; and the paucity of separate treatises will make the one before us acceptable. The author is a neat mathematician, and appears to be well up to his day.

Plane Trigonometry and Logarithms. By J. Walmsley. (Hodgson & Son.)

THIS book is carefully done; has full extent of matter, and good store of examples.

The Handy Calculator. (Wesley.)

A little book of percentage and profit tables which, accuracy being presumed, is sure to be useful; also a folding sheet of foreign measures, &c.

Tables of Tangential Angles and Multiples for setting out Curves, from 5 to 200 Radius. By A. Beazley. (Lockwood & Co.)

"For setting out curves with the Theodolite according to Rankine's system." Not a book, but a pack of cards in a case, with two or three cards of preface, and many of tables. Very handy: a man may know that all his day's work must fall on two of these cards, which he puts into his own card-case, and leaves the rest behind. But if he should happen to drop down in a fit, the rustics who search his

pockets to see who he is will think he has a very odd name.

The Circle Squared; and the Difference between Square and Superficial Measurement. By Wm. Peters.

We leave the circle to the Budget. Mr. Peters is the person whom we described about twenty years ago as a correspondent of some wit, but who diluted it into weak wit-and-water: Time has not thinned his character. Here is a collection of jokes about our jokes, and Mr. De Morgan's jokes, and of Mr. James Smith's jokes, and the measurement of a square, &c. But the wit is very diluted indeed; Mr. De Morgan is told to "do the ole with the hi of a Nork"; ifth is bewt ot? However, one thing is certain, the cyclometers, orthodox and heterodox, are more good humoured than the theologians.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Adams's Friends of Christ in the New Testament, 12mo. 1/- swd.
Black's Hundred Days in the East, 12mo. 7/- cl.
Bonnell's Relations of Church and State, cr. 8vo. 3/- cl. swd.
Christie's Collection of Elementary Test Questions, cr. 8vo. 8/- cl.
Clapin's French Grammar, 12mo. 2/- cl.
Dalton's Arithmetical Examples, 12mo. 2/- cl.
De Teissier's House of Parliament, 18mo. 4/- cl.
Farrar's Descriptive Grammar Book in Use at Harrow, 8vo. 2/- cl.
Fifteen Reasons in Favour of Youthful Piety, 16mo. 1/- cl.
Gilbert Ruggles, author of "First Friendship," 3 vols. 3/- cl.
Guthrie's Anecdotes and Stories, 12mo. 1/- cl.
Hatton's Studies and Recollections, A Series of Sketches, cr. 8vo. 4/- cl.
Hobson's Words of Wisdom, 12mo. 1/- cl.
Hole's Hours of the Working Classes, 8vo. 7/- cl.
Hoody's Fairy Realm, illust. Doré, 4to. 21/- cl.
Jennings's Precious Promises, 16mo. 2/- cl. gt.
Kempis' Imitation of Christ, large sq. 12/- cl.
Lafontaine's La Fontaine, 8vo. 1/- cl.
Macaulay's Systematic Memory, 12mo. 1/- cl. swd.
Maurice's The Workman and Franchise, 8vo. 1/- bds.
Morris's Student's Chart of English Literature, 4to. 4/- cl. limp.
Scott's Tales for the Year, 16mo. 1/- cl.
Scott's Words of Wisdom, 12mo. 1/- cl.
Tintle's Year Book of Facts, 1865, 12mo. 5/- cl.
Trollope's Travelling Sketches, cr. 8vo. 3/- cl.
Tweddle's Youthful Diligence, post 8vo. 3/- cl.
Witch's Treasures, 12mo. 1/- cl. bds.
Watson's Venables and How to Grow them, 12mo. 1/- bds.
What Money Can't Do, 3 vols. post 8vo. 31/- cl.
Whitehead's The Grahames of Bessbridge House, 2 v. post 8vo. 31/-

FRENCH VIEWS OF ENGLAND.

Paris, February, 1866.

The books relative to England that have appeared in France during the last few years are extremely numerous, and some of them are important; and you will look in vain in these latter for any echo of those blatant cries which certain parties in Great Britain have thought fit to utter of late against the Government, the institutions, and nearly all the acts and all the thoughts of Englishmen. Not many months ago, there appeared in Paris a work entitled "The Laws and Customs of Elections in France and England," by M. Lefèvre-Pontal. This gentleman describes the manner in which our elections are carried on, in a way which proves that he has had the opportunity of observing them, and has not neglected it; he does not attempt to hide the grosser, any more than the nobler, features. He has certainly no sympathy for bribery, for pugilistic supporters, nor for public-house orgies; but neither is he blinded by all this to the good that lies hidden from the view of the superficial observer by these ignoble surroundings. With all this drunkenness, all this licence, this Pantagruelic patriotism, what kind of figure, he asks, is produced by the obscure nakedness of an imperial voting-chamber,—at one moment deserted as a tomb, and at others filled with inarticulate murmurs, or overcharged with dangerous electricity. On which side of the Channel, he asks, are the people careless? M. Lefèvre-Pontal had tried his strength on the platform of universal suffrage, and had learnt something about the working of that incomparable organization. He was evidently far less terrified by the tempest on one side of the Channel, than by the unearthly calm on the other.

Another remarkable work is that by M. de Franquerville, entitled, "The Political, Judicial and Administrative Institutions of England." This gentleman is an Auditor of the Council of State; but he does not hesitate to express his views fearlessly in favour of many things which belong to a system as completely opposed to that under which he lives and serves as can well be imagined. He defends, nay, glorifies, the law of primogeniture, or rather, the system which com-

tinues the great families of England, their importance and power in the State; he does not exactly advocate the system of purchase in the army, but he sees nothing very extraordinary, or at all dangerous to liberty, in such an arrangement; he dares, in the face of Madame Prejudice and all the other authorities, to declare that we English unite amiable with solid qualities,—that justice with us is always paternal,—that the great are kind and considerate towards the poor,—that the master is indulgent to his workman; and—listen, ye who hold up to Brown, Jones and Robinson, of Somerset House or elsewhere, the example of Eugène, Ernest and Jean of the Parisian Circumlocution Office!—he says: "As to the *employés*, their politeness is exquisite, and their patience inexhaustible!" Of the public offices he says: "They are clean and neat. You see few papers, and still fewer boxes. A small basket, three or four sheets of paper—astonished to find themselves in company—a little red tape; that is all. No Cerberus, half strangled in a white cravat; only a few gentlemen, in frock-coats." A Parisian journalist says, as if somewhat piqued, that M. Franquerville must have seen England through a rose-coloured fog!

In the evening edition of the official *Moniteur* is a column headed "Petit Courrier Anglais," which is apparently intended as a periodical medium of enlightening the people of France with respect to the habits, customs and modes of thought of the English nation; and the writer, M. F. Lacaut, a Frenchman, residing in England, expresses his opinions with the frankness of a man who is determined to tell the truth, while he is inclined to say what is agreeable rather than otherwise. This gentleman says, amongst other things, that the constant use of the words *voisins, amis, alliés*, in place of *Français* and *Anglais*, shows that it is becoming repugnant to the two peoples to call each other by their proper names, just as it is agreeable for two old friends to use one another's christian names. How much more would this be the case, he says, if the two nations knew each other better. It is the duty, he adds, of the English who live in France, and of the French who inhabit England, to teach the two peoples that they are formed to love each other. M. Lacaut has evidently not been long in London, for in speaking of the crowded state of the streets, he makes a little slip in stating that the foot-passengers, like the carriages, always pass on the left-hand. We are a little afraid too, that a longer residence will cause our amiable contemporary to see less difference between certain classes of shopmen in London and Paris, and that he will be inclined to modify his statement, that in the former city one's ears are never bored by the impertinent verbosity of the assistants. He will astonish some of his countrymen by portions of the following extract, which we give entire, as a specimen of the impartial tone of the writer: "The above hints being given and accepted, take good note of those by whom you are surrounded, and admit that red hair and beards are not more plentiful here than elsewhere, that you are in despair at not meeting noses of the parrot-bill form, or my Lord Puff and John Bull rolling along painfully under their traditional corpulence; on the contrary, the saying of a certain Pope concerning two Saxon slaves will occur to your memory, for there are few races so fine as the Anglo-Saxon. Men six feet high are not uncommon, and many of the men we meet have athletic forms, limbs of rare vigour, faces redolent of health; and you will find this superabundance of strength in the case of those who have devoted their lives to sedentary occupations, as well as in the sailor and the labourer. But it must be added, that we rarely meet with the elegance of our young Parisians. The physiognomies speak more in favour of the English: they almost all reveal that benevolence and kindness which, in truth, form the foundation of the English character. The women! shall I speak of them? The old prejudices have long veiled our eyes to the qualities of Englishmen; but the veil has fallen before 'the women, and jolie comme une Anglaise' has become one of the phrases of our gallantry." M. Lacaut is eloquent about the fresh and rosy

babies who roll in the sand or on the grass, and says, that no instrument can produce such sweet caressing sounds as those which escape from their fresh lips, and tempt you to embrace them. "At the extremes of life, in infancy and old age, says the writer, the English type is of rare beauty." M. Lacaut cannot bring himself to admire our public statues, for which he is certainly little to be blamed; and of the Marble Arch he says—"There is nothing remarkable about it but the marble of which it is made and the enormous sum of money which it cost." Is he much wrong there? Like any man of taste, he is struck with the extent of our parks and the freedom which reigns there. "The people," he says, "are there as in their own domain, for these parks are truly theirs. . . . For them were made the plantations of St. James's, for them the Crown deprived itself of one of its finest jewels, Kensington Gardens. These promenades have been given to the people, as Caesar gave to the Romans his gardens and his villas. . . . The people take their place in the midst of these splendid palaces, and all the etiquette which reigns in the continental promenades is banished." Our rags, the squalor of London misery, call forth his regrets; but he does not jump hastily at a conclusion, and he reserves the subject for future consideration, closing his last letter with the following passage:—"Much has been written about the misery of London, which has been greatly exaggerated and spoken of in ignorance. Benevolent institutions abound there; English charity has exhibited, and still exhibits, an amount of generosity which anywhere else would be called prodigality. Is this benevolence wisely applied? Does it produce fruit in proportion to the liberality with which it is guided? This is another matter. These are questions full of interest, which we must return to on another occasion. But let it be understood at once, that no one is idle, without shelter and in rags, but he who is determined to be so." The above will be sufficient to show in what spirit M. Lacaut assumes the task of friendly master of the ceremonies between us and his own countrymen.

Let us glance for a moment at a specimen of the old kind of information, reproduced in the *Moniteur du Soir*. It will form an amusing contrast, although there is no malice in the midst of its strange revelations. The writer, like the primrose or the violet, modestly screens himself from publicity. He says that a very few years since, Christmas lasted twelve days in London, and that during the whole of that period all warehouses and shops were religiously closed; the epoch was called the *twelve holidays*; the "Boxing-days" (*jours des boîtes*), we are informed, followed *Christmas*. "Yesterday, to-day, to-morrow and following days, every household and the bed-rooms of bachelors are invaded by the visits of the postman, the street-sweeper, the man charged to fill the private cisterns of the houses, and to carry away the dirty water and the rubbish, the lamp-lighter, and many others, among whom are the *waits*." The *waits*, being unknown in France, are considerably described for the benefit of the writer's countrymen; according to this gentleman's account, they are, or pretend to be, Scotchmen, and are always dressed in the costume of their *clan*, and keep the inhabitants of London awake all night with the finest music of their national bagpipes!

G. W. Y.

STOP THIEF!

Wallack's Theatre, New York, Jan. 17, 1866.

My name is somewhat freely used by Mr. Watts Phillips, in a letter to you regarding his play of "Lost in London." That letter has just been re-published here, and I hope you will allow me space in your columns for explanation of my share in the production of the drama.

Mr. John Sefton, a performer in my theatre, went to England in May last, and, on his return, brought me several plays, from which I selected two or three for representation. One of these was "Lost in London." Mr. Sefton informed me that he had complete right over the piece, as it was presented to him by his friend Mr. Webster, of the New Theatre Royal, Adelphi. Upon this I pro-

dured the play, and paid Mr. Sefton so much per night during its "run." About two weeks ago (when "Lost in London" had been acted twenty nights), I received a letter from Mr. Webster, requesting me not to produce it, or, if I had done so, immediately to withdraw it. I wrote to Mr. Webster in reply, informing him how I came into possession of the play, and stating my regret if its production had caused him or Mr. Philips any injury.

Of the version—or copy—stolen, as Mr. Philips asserts, some years ago, and produced in New York, at Miss Keene's theatre, I know nothing except that it was produced, under the title of "Jessie MacLean."

Mr. Sefton's copy he brought with him direct from Mr. Webster. Had I supposed for one moment that I was obtaining it without the full sanction of those having a right over it, I would not have produced it; for I can assure Mr. Philips, with every respect for his talent, that the most attractive play he or any author could write, would not require me for the loss of my reputation for fair dealing.

I have paid, and am willing to pay, fair terms to any author of celebrity (English or American) whose plays will suit my company and my theatre, if he thinks proper to intrust me with them, as I am anxious to do all in my power to prevent the "rascality" of which Mr. Philips complains.

How his drama came here, and by what authority it was disposed of to me, can only be clearly explained by Mr. Sefton or Mr. Webster.

LESTER WALLACK, Proprietor and Manager of Wallack's Theatre, New York.

"Jan. 15, 1866.

"Dear Sir,—In London, in July last, my friend Mr. Webster gave me a copy of 'Lost in London,' and subsequently two other plays. Hoping I would make money out of all of them, I submitted them for your approval. You accepted them; have acted 'Lost in London,' and have paid me for each night's performance.—I am, dear sir, yours respectfully,

JOHN SEFTON.

"To John Lester Wallack, Esq."

STONEHENGE.

20, Langham Place, Feb. 7, 1866.

In my last letter, as originally drafted, there was a paragraph about the "blue stones"; but, being sincerely anxious to terminate this very unprofitable correspondence, I thought I was more likely to do so by avoiding any new issue which Sir John Lubbock had not raised, and therefore omitted the passage. It also occurred to me that it would be perceived that precisely the same argument applied to them as to the Sarsen chips. If the chips can be identified as fragments of the Sarsens of which Stonehenge is built, and the blue stones as fragments of those which stand within the Stonehenge circle, then that individual barrow in which they are found is more modern than Stonehenge: though what bearing that determination may have on the age of the latter monument is not so clear. As no attempt beyond the merest assumption has been made to identify the one with the other, the question seems somewhat irrelevant.

There does not appear to me any difficulty in accounting for the presence of "blue stones" in barrows. From their presence and position in Stonehenge, it is evident they were considered sacred by the Ancient Britons, and, if this was the case in the post-Roman times, when Stonehenge was erected, *a fortiori* it must have been so in the pre-Roman times, when the greater number of the barrows were raised. If so, nothing is more likely than that a man should have his sacred stone buried with him, as well as his flints, or any trinket he valued.

My impression is that some will be found when looked for, and every fresh one discovered will add strength to my argument.

JAMES FERGUSON.

FRIEDRICH RÜCKERT.

"Abwärts rinnen die Ströme in's Meer," were the sadly-resigned words which Friedrich Rückert, in the consciousness of his declining years, wrote some time ago in the album of a friend of ours, then visiting him at his rural retreat at Neuses, near Coburg. "Down flow the rivers, down into the sea!" The melancholy foreboding expressed in this sentence has now been fulfilled. Friedrich Rückert, the oldest and the greatest of the present generation of German poets, has gone to his rest, at his above-named country-seat of Neuses, on the 31st of January last. Born on the 16th of May, 1788, at Schweinfurt-on-the-Maine, he has lived to 77 years and 8 months, following but too soon his friend and poetical brother, Ludwig Uhland, side by side with whom (just as Goethe's name is inseparable from that of Schiller) he has taken his stand in the hearts of his countrymen.

The life of Rückert, though rich in works, was not rich in events: it was the life of a student and a poet; the life of a nightingale warbling in the dark. He was educated at the Gymnasium of Schweinfurt, and the University of Jena, became an academic lecturer (*Docent*) at Jena, in 1811; lived then, busy with his studies and poetical plans, at various places (among others on the Battenburg, in Franconia, an honoured guest of that wonderful old man, the Ritter Truchsess), and was, from 1815 to 1817, one of the editors of the *Morgenblatt*, at Stuttgart. The greatest part of 1818 he spent at Rome, and after his return to Germany, devoted himself, at Coburg, to the study of oriental languages and literature, of which, in 1826, he became Professor at the University of Erlangen. In 1840 the late King of Prussia called him to Berlin, where, however, he is said never to have felt at home. He longed for retirement and the country, and, since his return to his beloved Neuses, in 1849, has never left the rural solitude of its green shades. The number of Rückert's poetical works (comprising lyric, epic and didactic poems, several dramas, and a series of truly wonderful metrical translations from the Eastern languages) is very large; it goes hand in hand with the astonishing versatility and productiveness of his talent. In Rückert's hands all and everything turns into poetry. Whatever falls within the circle of his observation, of his reflection and of his feelings; whatever he touches upon, the greatest object as well as the smallest; the star over his head and "the dying flower" at his feet; the struggles of his country and the quarrellings of his brave boys; the far-away Arabian desert and the little garden at the back of his house; the rustling of the palms of the Ganges and the twittering of the swallow under his eaves; the complaint of the forsaken Chinese woman, and the endearing words of his own German sweetheart—there is nothing, far or near, which does not find an echo in his breast; nothing which he does not make a theme for his songs; his poesy, truly, is what he himself calls "Weltpoesie"; a grand and universal concert, blending all the poetical voices of all zones into one harmony. "Weltpoesie ist Weltversöhnung" is the great and invariable theme of all Rückert's poesy. His translations, too, masterpieces as regards the marvellous handling of the language, must be looked upon in this light. If, as it is to be hoped, a complete edition of Rückert's works will soon appear, it will consist at least of twenty stout volumes, all in verse, and comprising the greatest variety of manners and styles, from the simplest tone of the Volkslied to the most intricate form of the Minnesingers, as well as of the Italian, Persian, Arabian and Indian poets. The following is a list of Rückert's works, not pretending, however, to anything like completeness: 'Deutsche Gedichte' (published under the nom de plume Freimund Reimar), 1814, —'Krang der Zeit,' 1817, —'Napoleon, politische Komödie,' 2 pieces, 1816–18, —'Oestliche Rosen,' 1822, —'Amaryllis, ein ländliches Gedicht,' 1825, —'Die Makamen des Hariri,' 1826, —'Nal und Damajanti, eine indische Geschichte,' 1828, —'Schi-King, chinesisches Liederbuch,' 1833, —'Gesammelte Gedichte,' 6 volumes, 1834–38, —'Erbauliches und Beschauliches aus dem Morgen-

lande,' 2 volumes, 1836–38, —'Die Weisheit des Brahmanen, ein Lehrgedicht in Bruchstücken,' 6 volumes, 1836–39, —'Sieben Bücher morgenländischer Sagen und Geschichten,' 1837, —'Rostem und Suhrab, eine Heldeneposie,' 1838, —'Brahmanische Erzählungen,' 1839, —'Amrikas, der Dichter und König,' 1843, —'Saul und David, ein Drama der heiligen Geschichte,' 1843, —'Herodes der Große,' in 2 Stücken, 1844, —'Kaiser Heinrich IV.,' 1844, —'Christoforo Colombo, Geschichts-Drama,' 1845, —'Hamasa, oder die ältesten arabischen Volkslieder übersetzt und erläutert,' 2 volumes, 1846; and many unpublished poems, which will fill some volumes, when printed in a future edition of collected works.

THE FEAST OF CODICI IN HONOUR OF DANTE.

Newington Butts, Surrey.

WHEN the public festivities at Florence in commemoration of the sixth centenary of Dante Alighieri had been brought to a satisfactory close by the banquet in the Palazzo Serristori, it pleased the Minister of Public Instruction to open a literary feast for fifteen days in the Palazzo del Potesta, to which all the cultivators of letters, who, like other bookworms, live by what they feed on, were freely invited.

It was a very costly entertainment, and, besides codici of the *Divina Commedia*, comprised a variety of documents concerning Dante, rare editions of his works, and the most recent publications relating to them. There were also all those contributions in honour of his festival which the love and patriotism of the Italian Comunes had caused to be compiled and printed for this occasion.

The bill of fare of the literary spread, in other words, the printed catalogue of the long list of intellectual dainties set before Dantophilists by order of the Minister, has kindly been sent to me, and it may interest those who did not come to the feast to know what good cheer they missed, and how greatly they ought to regret for the rest of their days not having accepted the generous invitation.

In official language, the banquet was called *Una Biblioteca temporanea per gli studiosi*, and the "studiosi," when the time for its continuance had expired, greatly wished for a few days' grace to finish their repast; but this it was found impossible to grant, as many of the manuscripts, which had come from distant parts of Italy, had to be returned, and rare editions were reclaimed by their owners.

The collection was essentially an Italian one, and almost exclusively confined to the kingdom. No codici had been sent from Rome, or from Venice, or Padua, or any other Italian city at present held by foreign troops. Florence contributed the greater portion. There were 180 codici of the *Divina Commedia*, many of which had commentaries to the text, and most of them *postille*; and there were 14 codici of commentaries only, either on the whole or portions of the poem. Of the 180 codici, 29 consisted of fragments; there were 10 with the Inferno entire, 3 with portions of it only; with the Inferno and Purgatory there were 5 codici, and 5 contained the Paradise alone, 2 had portions of it. Only one had the Purgatory alone, showing the comparative unpopularity of that region; one also had the Purgatory and Paradise; another had a very small portion of the Inferno and a still smaller portion of the Paradise—it was only the antiquity of this morsel, being of the first half of the fourteenth century, that brought it here; another contained a fragment of the poem, but the catalogue does not specify what.

The National Library at Florence now comprises the Magliabechian and the Palatine, but the two are still kept separate, as before; the contingent sent by these consisted of 42 codici, six of which contained fragments only. The Laurenzian sent 32 codici, three of which had portions only of the poem. The Riccardian contributed 34, of which eight were imperfect. So that out of the whole number of codici of the *Divina Commedia*, the public libraries of Florence furnished 108, or three-fifths. The next largest number of codici, 23, four of which contained fragments only, came from the Trivulzian Library at Milan. The contributions from

other cities of Italy were as follows:—Naples, 6 codici, two of which were fragments; Bologna, 5 entire codici; Siena, 5, one a fragment; Parma, 4; Modena, 4, one a fragment; Perugia, 3, one a fragment; the Brera Library at Milan, 3, one a fragment. The cities of Turin, Brescia, Ravenna and Cortona sent 2 codici each. Genoa, Rimini, Imola, and Poppi, little Poppi in the Casentino, sent each one codice. One also came from Friuli, and one from the Library Landi of Piacenza. Piston sent two fragments, Cagliari one. The Avv. Michele Cavaleri, of Milan, sent a codice from his private library, and one also came from the library of the Cav. Emilio Frullani, of Florence.

Of the codici containing only commentaries, eight were perfect, or nearly so, six were fragments. Of the former, three were copies of the commentary by *Jacopo della Lana*, four of that by *Benvenuto da Imola*, the remaining one was that by *Pietro*, the son of Dante. Commentaries without the text of the poem are comparatively rare, except that of *Benvenuto da Imola*, which has frequently been copied in recent times. Seven codici contained translations in whole or part; three were in Latin hexameters, by the monk Matteo Ronto, of the order of Our Lady of Mount Olivet, and one in French of the sixteenth century. Of the minor works of Dante there were twenty-seven codici.

The Codici of the Divina Commedia were arranged in two classes, those with a date and those without a date, the latter of which were subdivided into those which had miniatures and designs and those which had not. Those with a date were set down as forty-eight, only fifteen of which were of the fourteenth century, the rest were of the fifteenth. But the first in the series, the Codice Poggiali, so called from Gaetano Poggiali, a former possessor, and who first made this codice known, has no actual date, and was only inferred to be the oldest, partly from the character of the writing, and partly by a mistaken deduction from a portion of the commentary with which the text is accompanied. There can be no mistake, however, in stating that it is of the first half of the fourteenth century, but whether anterior to 1333, is, I think, doubtful. The next codice in the order of precedence was that of 1336, known as the Codice Landi; then followed the Codice Trivulziano, with the date 1337; these were the only three codici anterior to 1340. The dates of those which followed were: 1343, the Codice Villani, by Batines placed before all others, but which the compilers of the catalogue say they are persuaded is a copy of the fifteenth century, made from one by Filippo Villani, who had illustrated a text of 1343. The next was of 1347, the Codice Gaddiano, written by Franciscus ser Nardi; then followed those with the dates 1355, 1369-70, 1372, 1373-4, 1380, 1383, 1390, 1392, 1396, 1398. The arrangement according to ascertained dates is more satisfactory than that dependent on the illustrations of the codici, and it would have been better had this principle been carried out in those without an actual date, some of which were of the fourteenth, others of the fifteenth century. Batines placed the Codice Poggiali as No. 163 in his list, and gave a full description of it. Francesco Palermo, in his catalogue of the Palatine MSS., Firenze, 1853, has described it again, and formed a more correct opinion of the commentary and of the time when it was written than did the compilers of the catalogue of the temporary library for the students of Dante.

Poggiali thought this codice not posterior to 1330, as the commentator states that the figure of Mars alluded to by the poet was still at the foot of the Ponte Vecchio, and the compilers follow in the same opinion. But it is obvious, on attentive reading, that the writer of the commentary merely here repeats in prose what Dante had said in poetry (see Inferno, xiii, 146-150). This statue, which had suffered many vicissitudes, finally disappeared in 1333.

Palermo points out, in another place, that the writer, or compiler, of the commentary does not speak in his own person. Thus, at Inferno xxvii, 45, in reference to the ruler of Forlì, of which city the poet states,—

Sotto le branche verdi si ritrova,
se read: "La quale (Forlì) al presente, cioè, nel

1300, sotto le branche del mezzo leone verde è signoreggianta." On which Palermo remarks: "By these words we see, beyond a doubt, that the chiosatore does not speak of himself, but causes Dante to speak in prose; that is, without adding anything of his own, he states in prose the verse of the poet, and that in his poetic fiction he visited the Inferno precisely in 1300."

There is another circumstance of more interest in reference to this commentary which deserves especial notice; it is this. It had been observed that after certain paragraphs in the commentary on the Inferno the letters "Ia" occur, showing that they were taken from some earlier commentary written by one Jacopo. There are but two known writers of commentaries with this name, *Jacopo della Lana* and *Jacopo di Dante*. On comparing these passages with the corresponding passages in the commentary of the former, there is not found any agreement at all between them. But on comparing them with those in the *Ottimo* there is. Now we have it, on the authority of Salvati, that, in the sixteenth century, the *Ottimo* passed for the commentary by *Jacopo della Lana*; no other *Jacopo*, it would seem, was then thought of. I have elsewhere endeavoured to show the possibility, to say the least of it, that the commentary known as the *Ottimo*, may be, in part, the work of *Jacopo di Dante* (see "Contributions," p. 320-322). This conjecture derives considerable support from the above circumstance; and Palermo exclaims, as if the same conjecture had flashed through his mind with the force of an innate conviction, "Can it be that the *chiosi* of this codice, and those of the *Ottimo*, are by *Jacopo di Dante*?" I have a strong persuasion that they are.

H. C. BARLOW.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

The members of the Geological Society will dine together at Willis's Rooms on Friday next week.

The Microscopical Society will hold their annual meeting at King's College, on Wednesday, February 14.

Mr. Lewins, author of "Her Majesty's Mails," is preparing for the press a "History of Savings Banks." The work, we understand, will contain chapters on Post Office Savings Banks and Government Annuities.

We understand that a five-act historical play has just been written by Mr. Martin F. Tupper, with a view to its representation in the spring; the subject is, "The Life and Death of Raleigh."

The capital edition of Shakespeare prepared by Mrs. Cowden Clarke, for Messrs. Bickers & Son, on a plan suggested in these pages, of giving the text, and leaving out the notes, has found favour in many eyes. It is out of print. A new edition is in the press.

The name of Peacock as a writer of fiction is too little known by the readers of our generation; but Shelley's executor, the author of "Headlong Hall," "Nightmare Abbey," "Maid Marian" (with its charming lyrics), "Crotchet Castle," "Melin-court," and, the other day, "Gryll Grange"—the friend and collaborator of Bentham, and Mill, and Grote, must not pass to his rest, at the patriarchal age of eighty, without a tribute to his racy wit, his quaint reading, and his quiet command of our mother-tongue. Rated among novelists, Peacock, in one respect, counts for little. He never tried for plot; he had small descriptive power. Rated as a satirist who shot Folly as it flew, and could exhibit the philosophies and paradoxes of the time with an epigrammatic keenness, and with a genial recognition of all that is best, highest, and most liberal, he demands no common praise, and will hold no common place whenever the story of ultra-liberal literature shall come to be written. One brief, whimsical volume comprises the best of his novels; but there is more in that book than in the seventy volumes of those prolific folk who lay stories—six a year—as fast as circulating-library readers will devour them, to be forgotten as soon as devoured. Peacock's tales will be returned to. They are, in some sort, already classics.

We hear with satisfaction that the parish authorities of St. George's, Hanover Square, are so per-

suaded of the advantage of subways, that they have resolved to construct them in the new thoroughfares near the Pimlico terminus.

We give the following note as we receive it:—

"Cannes, Jan. 30, 1866.

"Will you allow me, through your columns, to draw the attention of your numerous readers to a (probably unconscious) mis-statement of fact, occurring in an article in this month's issue of the *Edinburgh Review* on that much vexed question, 'Was Shakespeare a Roman Catholic?' In page 149 the writer would lead those of his readers who do not know otherwise to believe that, until Dr. Wordsworth's book on 'Shakespeare's Use and Knowledge of the Bible' was published, the striking parallelism existing between the works of Shakespeare and the Bible had never before been made the subject of particular inquiry. What I desire to say is, that a book entitled 'Bible Truths, with Shakespearean Parallels,' of which your humble servant was the author, and whose title very plainly indicates its intention, was published (by Whittaker & Co.) in a second edition before the first edition of Dr. Wordsworth's book was out. Although I heartily espouse the side of the argument the writer takes on the main question at issue, I think it due to the fact, as well as to myself, that the above mis-statement should be corrected.—I am, &c. R."

By the law of England, elopement and adultery proved to have been committed by a wife have, for centuries, been held to bar her claim to dower in her husband's lands; unless, indeed, he condoned the adultery. Now special pleaders have generally been considered very prosy. Such, at least, appears to have been the rule in public opinion. But such rule is not without its exceptions. The following is an example:—To a claim by Anne, the widow of Lord Powes, for her dower in a manor which had belonged to him, it was pleaded that the claimant

"Frankly, of her own accord,
Left her husband and her Lord,
And from Bednal Greene she ran
With Mathew Rochles, gentleman,

to the parish of St. Clements Danes, where she lived in adultery, all the life long of said Lord Powes:—*ab eoque hoc*, that ever she was reconciled." This quaint, unprospective plea is given in "The Laws Resolutions of Women's Rights, or the Laws provision for Women," edit. 1632. It is taken from a copy of that work which formed part of the library of the celebrated Sir Philip Francis, and has this inscription in the title-page, apparently in his writing: "P. Francis, 1790, g. W. W." Why this cautious abbreviation? Was it intended to denote the *giver* of the book; and was he William Woodfall, the printer of the Letters of Junius? If so, the caution may, perhaps, be accounted for.

The United States iron-clad steamship, Monadnock, which, as may be remembered, made some noise on the coast of Carolina during the blockade of the South, has sailed to join the Pacific squadron at San Francisco. She will be taken through the Straits of Magellan; and as her voyage from one hemisphere to the other will afford a good opportunity for compass-observations, Prof. Harkness, of the U.S. Navy, has been sent out in the ship to make an especial study of the behaviour of the compass. The phenomena to be noted are, the changes in the magnetism of the vessel herself, whether permanent or variable, on the passage from north to high south latitudes; and the variations in the declination of the compass-needle. The Monadnock being a large ship, with two turrets, will, it is expected, furnish valuable data towards an elucidation of that difficult and much-debated question—the magnetism of iron ships.

Two engraved sheets, containing eight views of the planet Mars, just published by the Astronomical Society, deserve a word of notice. They are intended to illustrate a paper read last summer by the Rev. W. R. Dawes, in which the observed phenomena of Mars were ably discussed; and they markedly confirm the opinions of those astronomers who hold that in general features Mars resembles our earth. There are the appearances of large breadths of land and water, of bright summits and polar snows, represented at such intervals of time as to afford means of study and comparison.

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Apart from their scientific value, these engravings are well worth attention as specimens of pictorial astronomy. They convey to the popular eye some notion of what distinguished observers are doing.

It is reported from Vienna, that Signor Bonelli is making experiments on the transmission of ponderable articles by electricity, and has succeeded to some extent. Hence we may perhaps live to see realized the old wife's notion of sending small parcels by telegraph.

Some very remarkable results have recently been obtained by M. Schlossing, in the production of exceedingly high temperatures by the combustion of gas with air. By regulating the quantity of hydrogen and air brought together at the time of combustion a considerable range of temperature can be obtained, the highest named in a communication recently made to the Académie des Sciences of Paris, by Sainte-Claire Deville, being 2730° Cent. By taking hydrogen obtained by the decomposition of water, and causing it to pass over incandescent charcoal, before it arrives at the place of combustion, where it is charged with the requisite quantity of air, a temperature of 2870° Cent. was obtained. It is proposed to apply the heat thus readily obtained, not only to the operations of the laboratory, but to extend it to the foundry and the workshop.

It is a popular mistake to suppose that George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends, was buried in Bunhill Fields. The Friends' Burial Place is in Coleman Street; the land was part of the Finsbury Manor Farm, long used as a place of interment. The Friends were looked upon in no favourable manner by other Dissenting bodies—

who acquired the Bunhill, or Bonehill Field, and must have sought a peculiar cemetery. Fox's Diary testifies to the relations existing between the Friends and the Baptists, Presbyterians and Independents of his day. Before Fox's death, in 1690, the land in Coleman Street was acquired by the Friends accordingly; we find, in the concluding paragraphs attached to the valiant George's diary, it related how, after the meeting in White Hart Court, Gracechurch Street, he went to Henry Goldney's, close by, and there admitted to others that "he thought he felt the cold strike to his heart as he came out of the meeting." It was "the 13th of the 11th month," 1690, being in the 67th year of his age, that Fox died. On the day appointed for his interment a meeting of Friends was held in White Hart Court, and "the body was borne, accompanied by very great numbers, to the Friends' burying-ground, near Bunhill Fields." Hasty readers have inferred from this that it was in the large cemetery George Fox was buried. Aggas's plan shows the character of the place some time before this; four windmills stand on hillocks close by; where Finsbury Circus and Square stand, appears a drying-ground for laundresses, or bleaching ground,—women are there represented spreading clothes on the grass. "More-gate" opens to the moor, or fen—hence the district name *Fen*, or *Finsbury*, and that of the near-to-hand Moor Lane. Fore Street appears before the city wall. The City Road is a footpath, near the junction of which with Old Street, another footpath, stands Finsbury Court. Tenter Street still attests the presence of the "tenters," whose frames in Aggas's plan are sketched on the site which is now so styled; thus also do Ropemaker and Skinner Streets indicate old trades of suburban custom. Cherry Terrace, Crabtree Row, Willow Walk and Wilderness, Windmill, Lamb, Pear, Rose, Primrose, Acorn, Ivy, Elder, Blossom, Orchard and Beech Streets, all in the neighbourhood, suggest odours and sights that have long left the spot. Tabernacle, Chapel, Worship, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Paradise, Quaker, Providence, and Great Pearl Streets hint at later occupants.

The German Shakespeare Society, of whose doing occasional mention has been made in these columns, has settled its head-quarters at Weimar. As some Englishmen may wish to become members of this association, Messrs. Williams & Norgate have consented to act as the honorary agents of the Society in London.

The general appearance of type depends in a

measure upon the more or less space which the printer places between his words. This is curiously shown in the last volume of Hansard, p. 1183. The few words in which the prorogation was declared are printed twice, in opposite parts of two columns, once as part of the Lords' proceedings, and once as part of the Commons'. Two different compositors must have been at work, one a wider *spacer* than the other. Both take nine lines and a bit; but the bit has twenty types of one printer, and six of the other. And yet this difference of fourteen types, in nine lines of about seven words each, makes such a difference of appearance, that it is difficult to avoid thinking that the crowded matter is in smaller type.

Mr. Hodgson has this week concluded a seven days' sale of books, being a portion of a library from Oxfordshire, a consignment from Melbourne, and other minor collections. Amongst them the prices realized by the following may be worthy of notice:—Atkyns's Gloucestershire, folio, 1712, 16s.—Manning and Bray's Surrey, 3 vols. large paper, 14l. 5s.—Lodge's Portraits, the original edition, 4 vols. folio, 21l. 10s.—Newton's (*L.*) Opera, editit S. Horsley, 9l. 10s.—Sowerby's English Fungi, 8l. 10s.—Stow's London, 2 vols., 7l. 5s.—Galerie du Palais Pitti, 4 vols., 9l. 9s.—Dibdin's Typographical Antiquities, 4 vols., large and thick paper, 18l. 5s.—A set of the English Historical Society's Publications, 11v.—Suckling's Suffolk, 2 vols., large paper, 5l. 7s. 6d.—A Salisbury Horae, size 3 inches by 4½ inches (damaged and imperfect), 6l. 12s. 6d.—A fine copy of Barker's Breeches Bible, 1583, 6l. 6s.—A set of the Quarterly Review, 10v., &c.

We learn from the last published Report of the American Geographical and Statistical Society at New York, that the Society, at one of their meetings, passed a series of resolutions on hearing of the death of Capt. Speke, in which eulogy and sympathy are appropriately expressed. They regard the incident "as a painful and inscrutable bereavement"; and "rejoice in the determination of the friends of geographical science in England to erect a suitable monument to the memory of Capt. Speke; and also to prosecute to final success the discoveries which will form his enduring fame; and that these objects are recommended to the cordial co-operation of the friends of science in the United States." We notice that the Society are making endeavours to add to their usefulness; and with a view to establish a working fund, have invited donations of one thousand dollars from one hundred patrons. We wish them success.

M. Matteucci is charged with the organization of a Meteorological Service in Italy. Eight stations have been chosen from the principal ports of the Peninsula—and the directors of these are to transmit every morning by telegraph, to the central office in Florence, established in the Museum of Physics and Natural History, the thermometric and barometric variations of the preceding day, and the indications of all the instruments employed at the moment when the despatch is transmitted. M. Matteucci desires the friendly co-operation of other countries, and hopes to aid in the establishment of a perfect European system of meteorological observation. M. Matteucci, in communicating this to the French Academy of Sciences, states, as the result of his own observations, that the tempests coming from the Atlantic, and which reach Europe by the western coast of Ireland, are those which the most frequently reach the Italian ports upon the Mediterranean and on the Adriatic. These tempests, frequent in winter, but rare in the summer, traverse England, a part of France, Switzerland and the Alps, and arrive upon the coasts of Italy, with a speed of propagation varying from 20 kilomètres (about six-tenths of an English mile) to 100 kilometres and more per hour. It will be interesting to learn if this view of the march of tempests over Europe is confirmed by extended accurate observations.—While on the subject of meteorology, we may state that M. Duprez has brought before the Academy of Sciences of Belgium some questions connected with the construction of lightning-conductors. His experiments lead him to call serious attention to

dangers which may attach to the employment of sharp-pointed conductors, especially when attached to gunpowder magazines.

Events have proved that Cotton is not king in the sense intended by the South Carolinian senator who originated the assertion; but the growth of cotton is an important fact nevertheless. In 1764 an American merchant in Liverpool received a consignment from Charleston of eight bales of cotton. They were seized at the Custom House, under an allegation that cotton could not be grown in the American colonies. In 1860 the cotton crop of the United States amounted to 2,078,777,600 pounds. In the East Indies the annual crop is 2,400,000,000 pounds. Of the 1,285,000,000 people now in the world, 700,000,000 wear cotton exclusively, and all but 70,000,000 use it more or less.

The Academy of Sciences at Stockholm are about to publish a fac-simile of an interesting relic—a photo-lithographic copy of the first edition of the "Systema Naturae" of Linnaeus, a folio of about fourteen leaves. Though very thin, it contains the groundwork of nearly all that the great naturalist accomplished. The proposed new edition will, no doubt, be sought after by the curators of botanical libraries in this country.

BRITISH INSTITUTION, Pall Mall.—The GALLERY for the EXHIBITION and SALE of the WORKS OF BRITISH ARTISTS is OPEN DAILY, from Ten till Five.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d.

GEORGE NICOL, Secretary.

SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—THE WINTER EXHIBITION OF SKETCHES AND STUDIES by the MEMBERS is NOW OPEN, 5, Pall Mall East. Nine till dusk.—Admission, 1s. On dark days the Gallery is lighted by gas.

WILLIAM CALLOW, Secretary.

WINTER EXHIBITION.—THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL WINTER EXHIBITION OF PICTURES, the Contributions of British Artists, is NOW OPEN at the French Gallery, 129, Pall Mall, opposite the Opera Colonnade. Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d.

LEON LEFÈVRE, Secretary.

SOCIETY OF FEMALE ARTISTS.—The EXHIBITION of the Works of this Society is NOW OPEN, from 10 till Dusk.—Street of the Architectural Exhibition, 9, Conduit Street, Regent Street.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d.

GENERAL EXHIBITION OF WATER-COLOUR DRAWINGS, Dudley Gallery, Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly.—The Exhibition is OPEN DAILY, from Ten till Six.—On Dark Days and at Dusk the Gallery is lighted by Gas.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d.

WALTER SEVERN, } Hon. Secs.

MR. MORBY'S COLLECTION OF MODERN HIGH-CLASS PICTURES is ON VIEW at the Royal Exchange Fine Arts Picture, 24, Cornhill. This Collection contains examples of Clarkson Stanfield, R.A.—J. Lewis, R.A.—H. Hook, R.A.—Philip James de Loutherbourg, R.A.—John Bell, R.A.—P. J. Scott, R.A.—Rosa Bonheur, Goodall, R.A.—C. C. Hodges, R.A.—J. L. Gurney, R.A.—J. E. Millar, R.A.—Sant, A.R.A.—Le Jeune, A.R.A.—Leader-Andsell, A.R.A.—Frost, A.R.A.—P. Nasmyth—Linnell, sen.—Dobson, A.R.A.—Cooper, A.R.A.—Gale—Marks—Pettie—F. Hardy—John Faed—Henriette Browne—Frere—Ruپera—Brillouin, &c.—Admission on presentation of address card.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.—New Optical Lecture, by Professor J. H. Pepper, entitled "Half-hours with Sir David Brewster," in which will be introduced various wonderful optical Illusions. J. H. Pepper, R.A.—John Wilson, R.A.—John H. Pepper, R.A.—Robinson Crusoe.—Holme's Torpedos and the Charming Fairy Tale, by J. L. King, Esq. Mr. G. W. Jester. All the usual entertainments. Admission, 1s. Open from 12 till 5, and 7 till 10.

SCIENCE

SOCIETIES.

ROYAL.—Feb. 1.—General Sabine, President, in the chair.—The following papers were read: "On the Specific Gravity of Mercury," by Mr. B. Stewart.—"On Graphitoidal Silicon and Graphitoidal Boron," by Prof. W. H. Miller.

ASIATIC.—Jan. 29.—Sir E. Colebrooke, Bart., M.P., President, in the chair.—Mr. E. B. Cowell and Mr. T. C. Flown were elected Resident Members.—A paper, by the Hon. H. E. J. Stanley was read, "On the Poetry of Mohamed Rabadan, an Aragonese Morisco." The author stated that a MS. in the British Museum, containing the poems of Rabadan, was bought by Mr. Morgan, H. M. Consul at Tunis, at Testur, in the Tunis territory, in the year 1719. There were then, according to Mr. Morgan, twelve villages, or towns, in the province of Tunis where the people spoke Spanish, and one in which they spoke Catalan. These people knew by heart, and were in the habit of reciting, the poems of Rabadan, which were written in Spanish at the beginning of the seventeenth century, for the instruction of the Moriscos, who, even at that time, a hundred and twenty years after arriving in Africa, and living as they did in the

mist of an Arab population, continued to use the Spanish language. The principal portion of these poems is a history of the prophets, beginning with the creation of the world, and going on to describe the Deluge, the history of Abraham, the genealogies of Ishmael and Isaac, and the history of the prophets, down to Hashim, Abdul Muttalib, and the Prophet, the description of whose death forms one of the best cantos in the book. Among the other poems in the volume the writer mentioned with particular praise the history of the Day of Judgment. In point of literary merit, he said, these poems were of no mean order; but they were equally interesting to the philologist on account of the Arabic words scattered over them, many old Spanish words now obsolete, and various other peculiarities. The Arabic words, of which several are used which are now lost from the Spanish language, are so defaced that it is not always easy to recognize them. They are either religious or legal terms, such as *almalaque*, an angel; *alcurei* and *alarz*, the Divine throne; *alcufura*, expiation; *acidaque*, dowry; *alguali*, a woman's legal deputy. As instances of the way in which from Arabic roots words were formed according to the rules of Spanish grammar and idiom, the writer mentioned the following:—*halecar*, to create; *halegado*, creature; *haleamiento*, creation; *azachdado*, prostrated; *taharado*, purified; *alcufanado*, shrouded; *alhijante*, pilgrim; *allohador*, the writer of the *Allah almalafid*, or heavenly prototype of the Koran.—After the reading of the paper was concluded, Viscount Strangford made some further remarks on this little-known and much-neglected chapter in the literary history of Spain, viz., Spanish poetry by Morisco authors. The number of poets and prose writers of this class was, he said, by no means so inconsiderable as one might suppose; and besides Mohamed Rabadan and Abdulkirim bin Aly Perez, there were many other authors whose works were well worth collecting and editing. There was at present one scholar, the celebrated Spanish savant, D. Pascual de Gayangos, who had stored up all the information on the subject to which access could be had; but pending the preparation of his collections and his literary researches upon them for publication, it was most desirable that an edition of Rabadan's poems from the MS. in the British Museum were undertaken by a competent scholar—a task which would involve no difficulty, as they are in the Spanish character as well as language, whereas most other MSS. are in the Arabic character and Spanish language.

LINNEAN.—Feb. 1.—G. Bentham, Esq., President, in the chair.—Mr. F. E. Broome was elected a Fellow.—The paper read was, 'On some Points in the Anatomy of the *Echidna hystric*', by Mr. St. George Mivart.

ZOOLOGICAL.—Jan. 23.—Dr. J. E. Gray in the chair.—Mr. Sclater exhibited an egg of the one-carunculated Cassowary (*Casuarius unappendiculatus*) laid in the Gardens of the Zoological Society, Amsterdam.—Mr. Sclater also made some remarks on the American Lepidoptera, and called attention to the rarity of specimens of this animal in European collections.—Dr. J. Murie read some notes on the Markhor (*Capra megacephala*), chiefly based upon a specimen of this animal which had recently died in the Society's Gardens. Dr. Murie also gave some account of the morbid appearances he had observed in a Chimpanzee which had lately died in the Menagerie.—Mr. A. D. Bartlett, Superintendent of the Society's Gardens, read some notes upon the nesting-habits and eggs of certain of the rarer species of birds that had bred in the Society's Aviaries during the past summer. Amongst those to which particular attention was called were the Sun Bittern (*Eurypyga helias*), Nicobar Pigeon (*Columba Nicobarica*), the Scarlet Ibis (*Ibis rubra*), and the Guira Cuckoo (*Ptilocichla guira*).—A communication was read from Dr. G. Hartlaub, containing a review of the species of birds of the genus *Curus*.—A communication was read from Dr. A. Carte, containing notes on a rare deep-sea fish (*Chiasmodus niger*, Johnn.) from the West Indies.—Two papers were read, by Mr. A. G. Butler, entitled 'Descriptions of some new

exotic Butterflies' and 'A Monograph of the Diurnal Lepidoptera belonging to the genus *Danais*'—Mr. O. Salvin pointed out the characters of seven new species of birds recently received from Veraguas, Central America.—Mr. Sclater exhibited a specimen of a supposed new species of American Cuckoo, of the genus *Neomorphus*, from Veraguas, which he proposed to call *Neomorphus Salvinii*.—Dr. J. E. Gray communicated a revision of the genera of the Pteropine Bats; to which were added descriptions of three species of this group of animals considered to be new to science.

CHEMICAL.—Feb. 1.—Dr. W. A. Miller, President, in the chair.—Messrs. A. E. Davies, F. Epps, E. Purser and W. Thorpe were elected Fellows; Mr. R. H. Smith was formally admitted, and the names of several candidates were proposed.—Dr. Gilbert delivered a lecture 'On the Composition, Value, and Utilization of Town Sewage,' which was very fully illustrated by a series of tabulated statements, showing in detail the analytical results obtained by himself and previous observers. The general conclusion established by the author's experience was, that the liquid sewage could best be applied to the irrigation of grass crops, when the yield was increased three or four fold.—Dr. Voelcker and Mr. Smeek spoke in confirmation of the author's views.

MICROSCOPICAL.—Jan. 10.—J. Glaisher, Esq., President, in the chair.—Messrs. H. C. Sorby, J. W. Rumble, W. Hooper, J. Robinson, T. Smith, and the Rev. D. Simpson, were elected Members.—The following papers were read: 'On a New Opaque Illuminator,' by Prof. H. L. Smith, of Kenyon College, Gambia, Ohio, U.S.—'Description of New and Rare Diatoms, Series XX.' by Dr. Greville.—'The Object-Glass its own Condenser, or a New Method of Illumination for Opaque Objects under High Powers,' by Mr. Beck.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—Jan. 30.—J. Fowler, Esq., President, in the chair.—The following papers were read: 'On the Craigellachie Viaduct,' by Mr. W. H. Mills.—'On the Grand River Viaduct, Mauritius Railways,' by Mr. W. Ridley.

FEB. 6.—Mr. J. Fowler, President, in the chair.—Eleven Members and twenty-one Associates were declared to have been elected, including, in the former class, Messrs. C. R. Atkinson, G. R. Burnett, F. Fowler, C. D. Fox, H. Gale, W. B. Lewis, R. A. Marillier, W. Mason, F. T. Turner, T. Penn and A. H. Vaux; the Associates elected were, Messrs. H. P. Bell, R. Broad, J. Brown, R. H. Burnett, T. Codrington, C. C. Downes, F. S. Dutson, S. T. Freeman, C. Frewer, E. Gibb, C. Gilpin, M.P., W. Vernon Harcourt, Q.C., W. Harrison, E. B. Humble, F. James, W. H. Lucas, E. Monson, F. Newman, Lieut.-Col. P. P. L. O'Connell, R.E., J. Robinson and H. Wyndham.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.—Feb. 5.—Earl Percy in the chair.—Earl Spencer, K.G., Dr. F. Mouat, Messrs. J. Brandeis, C. Lucas, and A. W. Paulton were elected Members.—The following additions to 'The Donation Fund for the Promotion of Experimental Researches' were announced, The Rev. J. Barlow (third donation), 10/-; S. Gaskell, Esq., 30/-; T. W. Helps, Esq., 10/-; J. C. Moore, Esq. (third annual donation), 10/-; J. Parnell, Esq., 10/-; Prof. Tyndall (second donation), 20/-.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—Jan. 29.—'On Submarine Telegraphy,' (Cantor Lecture), by Mr. Fleeming Jenkin.

Jan. 31.—W. Hawes, Esq., Chairman of the Council, in the chair.—The paper read was, 'Dwellings for the People—How to multiply and how to improve them,' by Mr. T. Beggs.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL.—Feb. 1.—Dr. J. Hunt, President, in the chair.—The following members were elected:—Dr. N. Genthe, Messrs. E. Charlesworth, J. E. B. Cox, J. Gowans, D. Lloyd, E. G. Mery, H. Mills, J. Robbins, T. V. Robins, and J. Taylor.—The following Local Secretaries were

elected:—Mr. R. B. W. Walker, Gaboon, West Africa; Mr. J. E. B. Cox, Hertfordshire.—Capt. Bedford C. Pim read a paper, 'On the Negro, at Home and Abroad.'

Feb. 6.—Dr. J. Hunt, President, in the chair.—The following Members were elected:—Dr. W. S. Pendon, Dr. B. Hinde, Messrs. F. Campin, T. Edmondston, L. R. Mignot, J. Pincock, Capt. J. Smyth, and A. Walker.—The following Local Secretaries were elected:—Mr. T. A. Rosenbusch, Sierra Leone; Dr. A. Fidde, Jamaica.—The following papers were read:—'On the People inhabiting Spain,' by Mr. H. J. C. Beavan;—'On the Tribes inhabiting Moravia and Wallachia,' by Dr. Hyde Clarke; 'On the Materials for Anthropology at Smyrna,' by the same.—A paper describing a stone implement found in South Africa, by Mr. T. Baines.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

MON.	Architectural, 8.—Geographical, 8.—'Ascent of River Poeres, Tributary of the Amazon,' Mr. Chandless.
TUES.	Horticultural, 8.—Annual General Meeting.
	Royal Institution, 3.—'Heat,' Prof. Tyndall.
	Engineering, 8.—'Designing Railway Stations, &c.', Mr. Huber.
	Entomological, 8.—'Characteristics of European and Asiatic Races of Man,' Mr. Crawford; 'Notes and Sketches on the Niger,' Mr. Valentine Reen.
	Syriac, 8.—'The Book of Daniel,' Mr. Sharpe.
	Numerical, 7.—'Monument of Sesostri, near Nymphaeum,' Mr. Hyde Clarke.
	Photographic, 8.—'Anniversary.
	Zoological, 8.—'New Species of Monoceros Worm,' Dr. Bassett; 'Undescribed Species of Petrel, from Jamaica,' Dr. Carle.
WED.	Microscopical, 8.—'Anniversary.
	Society of Arts, 8.
THURS.	Royal Institution, 8.—'Heat,' Prof. Tyndall.
	Numerical, 7.—'Gun Copal, Angola,' Dr. Welwitsch.
	Linnean, 8.—'Gun Copal, Angola,' Dr. Welwitsch.
	Royal, 8.
	Antiquarian, 8.
FRI.	Geological, 8.—'Ordnance Survey of Jerusalem,' Col. Sir H. James.
SAT.	Royal Institution, 3.—'Art Education: How Works of Art should be Viewed,' Prof. Westmacott.

FINE ARTS

BRITISH INSTITUTION.

THERE is not much to detain the student at this Exhibition. The most interesting figure picture is No. 483, *Shepherds on the Mountains of Toledo*, by Mr. E. Long,—a group of such fellows and females gathered round a hut-fire, while one recites a stirring tale. The object of the painter to depict varied expressions on divers countenances has been admirably attained. The design is full of spirit and action; the colour—see some parts of the background—has estimable phases; so that, on the whole, here is a humorous work of the first class, capably painted. The faces of the women are extremely well conceived: see also the old man on the opposite side of the ring to theirs, and the entire figure of his portly neighbour; the figure of the narrator is, in its grotesque force, one of the best parts of the work. By the same painter are two other pictures, Nos. 62 and 256.

No. 308, by Mr. W. C. Thomas, *The Return*, is a work so high in its aims, and so conscientiously wrought, as to deserve greater attention than it is likely to receive without a reminder to visitors. It illustrates the parable of the "Prodigal Son," with a super-mundane intention. We have the steps at the entrance of one of the golden mansions; the pillars which rest upon them are of glass or crystal; the *cella* is of gold—or, to speak literally, of gold-leaf, we believe. The returning spirit, a youth, ascends the stairs with an eager gesture, and is gladly welcomed by the lord of that mansion. While we thus venture to give this definition, it is with diffidence; it is possible that the artist may mean something different from that which presents itself to us upon his canvas. If wrong, however, we are bound to say that the fault is quite as much the artist's as ours. With the highest purpose, striving at poetry above the parabolic theme of the most exalted and least definite form, aiming to partake of and exemplify that essence of soaring imagination which least of all deals with the merely literal, Mr. Thomas's picture is at once one of the most prosaic and tangible displays of an idea we have ever met. His painting of the flesh and faces is as literal as Mr. Holman Hunt made that of the like in his 'Light of the World,' but void of that inspiration of dignity

and novelty of many admiring which the poetic open to Lord, and flesh, by negl. peristyle cella and truth in M. M. Bamba, plateau, to run, by tends to sparse treamed lower down the sun is admirable, and the treat by the same, but s. Lutvens a stable, and admin success, u. Mr. E. V. painted brightness (245).—M. but cold and suggest as they are sheep-fair exhibit satisfies a less, a place for girls sit the antch some dry ground, young la cleverly standing red tab in the L. Phoebe f (242). M. another in "work in his par Mr. Dill his pictu Old B. some el without Mr. J. S. stated o slovenly shows g come un examining some of tomley's is too the Gen dreadful vention, two pict (198)—reived a able col less "p original inventio m. it see most p during drilling sympat

and severe beauty which, despite the startling novelty of its conception and execution, won so many admirers for a picture in the very core of which there was much which could not be accepted as poetic in the nobles' sense, and more that was open to challenge. With so intensely realistic a Lord, and a Prodigal made up of such mere bones and flesh, we are at a loss to see what was gained by neglecting to make the crystal pillars of this peristyle so unpleasantly unlike crystal, or the cells and doorway at once so ugly and remote from truth in colour.

M. Mignot's landscape, *Table Lands of Rio Banba, Ecuador* (55), shows us a rift in a high plateau, through the depths of which a river seems to run, but which, at the time painted, is obscured by tender mists and veils of shadow. The land recedes to the utmost horizon, and is covered with sparse trees; it terminates to the eye in lines of dimmed mountains; the higher sky is clear, but, lower down, it is dashed with multitudes of clouds; the sun is half subdued by vapour. There is some admirable painting, of the effective sort, in this picture, and much that is more than merely effective in the treatment of the foreground. *Desolation* (494), by the same,—a ruined cottage,—is not only pathetic, but shows admirable colour and solidity.—Mr. Lutyns's *Study from Life* (187), a white horse in a stable, is very gracefully and beautifully drawn, and admirably modelled, and relieved, with great success, upon a red-washed wall of light tone.—Mr. E. W. Cooke's Venetian subject, No. 1, is painted with unusual warmth of colouring and brightness; the same may be said for *Santa Lucia* (245).—Mr. G. S. Hollings's *Clovelly* (16) is bright, but cold and rather hard; not so good as the subject suggests. Beautiful as the place is, we should be glad if the "profession" would eschew Clovelly, as they have Bettws-y-Coed.—M. Chaigneau's sheep-farming subject (42) is French in manner, exhibiting that wonderful monotony of sky which satisfies so many painters of that nation; nevertheless, a picture having good qualities of the commonplace sort.—Mr. E. Long's painting (62), Spanish girls sitting by the stoup, outside a church, while the anthem proceeds, has capital expression, and some dreadfully careless execution in the background.—Mr. G. D. Leslie's "Frozen Out" (54)—young ladies feeding a swan in frosty weather—is cleverly treated.—Mr. J. Gilbert's *Trumpeter* (76), standing by the side of his horse, and wearing a red tabard, is a capital example of picture-making in the bravura manner: see also No. 611.—In *Phœbe from the East* (84), and *The Last Journey* (242), Mr. F. Dillon illustrates picture-making of another sort, and threatens to outdo David Roberts in "working" an oriental tour; though less cleanly in his painting than that extraordinary craftsman, Mr. Dillon has more of the artist in him, so that his pictures are more pleasant to educated eyes than his predecessor's were.

Old Boys will be Old Boys (81), by Mr. Soden,—some elderly tipplers in a public-house,—is not without humour, but a poorly-painted picture.—Mr. J. Stirling's *Village Tailor* (162), such a one seated on his board before a window; although slovenly in execution, it is full of character, and shows good colour.—"Suffer Little Children to come unto Me" (175), by Mr. Pope,—two infants examining a picture-bible,—is cleverly treated in some of its parts, but utterly unsound.—Mr. Bottomley's *Beagle Puppy* (203), though skilfully done, is too inferior to a duplicate of the same at the General Exhibition to be worth much. How dreadfully small must be this artist's stock of invention, if such a thing as this suffices him for two pictures!—Mr. W. F. Yeames's *Young Royalist* (198)—a boy with a helmet—is very sweetly conceived as far as the face goes, and has some agreeable colouring. Mr. Yeames, while he has become less "peculiar" in his manner of painting and original in his conceptions, does not improve in invention, although he certainly does so in technical matters, such as drawing and modelling; he is, it seems, losing his individuality, which was his most precious possession.—*Canterbury Cloisters during the Commonwealth* (559)—Puritan soldiers drilling—has capital character: see the boy who sympathetically sets himself up at the word of

command.—*M. le Curé* (275), by Miss E. C. Collingridge, shows humour that would not bear repetition in No. 592.—*Hans Snaphaus* (283)—a poacher of cocks and hens—by Mr. J. A. Houston, is like cast-iron in texture, but with some comicality: not a pleasant picture.—Mr. Perugini's girl reading under an umbrella, in sunlight (288), shows a great deal of skill and some pleasant expression: the draperies are very well done.—Mr. Goldie's *St. Cecily* (514)—the discovery scene—has an excellent rendering of the angel's face.—*La Petite Rustique* (567), by Mr. J. C. Monro,—a frowsy little French girl, who has sullenly consented to sit for a study,—has capital colour, and much humour.—Miss K. Swift's *Duch Wedding* (628), though opaque painted, has some excellent colouring: see the dresses of the old couple who sit behind the pair, beneath the pulpit; and that of the bride. The picture is well and truly lighted.

Besides the landscapes above named, let us command the following to the visitor. *Southampton Water* (168), by Mr. H. Dawson, is mannered, over-solid, and, in parts, painterly; but, nevertheless, pleasantly full of knowledge of Nature.—Mr. J. Danby's *Elizabeth Castle, Jersey* (195) is one of his best pictures.—Mr. Gillett's *Autumn Morning, Norway* (303),—grouse on rocks, an atmosphere laden with mist, and deer looming large through the vapour,—is a capital picture.—Although we have said until we are tired of the act, that Mr. E. Hayes's painting of sea is expressive, and gives motion well, let us, nevertheless, having nothing better to say about *The Life-Boat* (367), say the same again, for the last time.—Mr. J. E. Newton's *View near Seaford* (376) seems to be very good, and quiet in colour.—Mr. J. W. Oakes's *Boats at Stresa, Lago Maggiore* (382), shows great success in a new range of subject for the painter: a most pleasant and sunny picture; Italian, soft as Italy; broadly treated.—Mr. Dearmer's *Cattle Reposing* (541)—a contemplative cow and ponies—in capital, very good in colour, and solid, although that solidity has been cheaply obtained.—Mr. E. Walton's *Monte Viso* (544)—a snowy peak as seen through rifted clouds, rosy in daylight—is, notwithstanding its obvious scenic suggestiveness, effective and striking. By the same, is another scene, *Encampment on the Road to Sinai* (491), a sunset effect. Although, from long experience, we see how much of all such pictures as those Mr. Walton produces is due to the painter's memory, we are grateful for so much of them that is good, and think with wonder of what was thought excellent not many years since. Neither Mr. Walton nor Mr. Dillon believe in pictures having blue and white oriental skies, and in pyramids, temples and towers in yellow and white, with which spots of red, blue and black serve for figures. A comparison of works by these gentlemen and Mr. Niemann's *Heath Scene* (590) is instructive.

FINE-ART GOSSIP.

THE Arundel Club, Salisbury Street, will, between the 16th and 23rd instant, exhibit a fine collection of etchings, pictures, drawings, engravings, old glass, &c. A complete collection of the etchings of Messrs. Meryon, so well known in Paris, Whistler, to whom was awarded the Gold Medal of Amsterdam, an honour of the highest character, and Haden, which we recently examined, will be comprised in this gathering.

The Gladstone Memorial Committee commissioned from Mr. Woolner a bust of the statesman: this is finished, and will shortly be erected on a pedestal enriched with reliefs from the Iliad by the same sculptor; the whole is to be placed in the Bodleian Library. A recent examination enables us to say, that nothing can be finer than the expression which has been imparted to the square and solid features of this work; refined as these are in their strength, and super-delicate in rendering of details, it has, when seen from a proper distance, a look of size that is due to that subordination of parts to the whole which characterizes high Art of all kinds. The expression of the face is wonderfully rendered, and derives from the subject with felicity. With all the plodding of high breeding, i.e., education and the controlling force of the modern habit,

the features are illuminated, so to say, by the inner spirit of the man: hence it is evident that their repose is but apparent; we have the skin as it lies over the muscles of the face shown to be delicate, susceptible of the subtlest movement, but not potent enough to do more than veil that which is beneath. Here are firm-set lips, clasped habitually, the upper on the lower, in the tenseness of an equipoise that is maintained by the will. In the corners of the mouth, the mobile and fleshy base of the lower lip, and the chin, through the surface of which appears the levator fibres in action, a marvellous piece of carving and expression, are the signs of a keen and irritable organization, of a nature that restrains itself because it is refined and prodigiously strong. This strength is not less distinct in the upper features of the face than that refinement and irritability appear to be in those which are below. A large, broad and prominent nose—not the lean eagle's beak which some examples have made appropriate to conquerors, but such as is suggestive of a higher sagacity than theirs, and seemingly indicative of an intensely sensitive nature which is not without sensuousness—is a feature thoroughly in keeping with that great breadth which the skull displays above the ears—the unfailing accompaniment of a powerful and energetic nature. Two great, steadfast, oblong eyes that are unflinching in looking, and have the clear fierceness which we see in great combative birds. We wrote advisedly that the shape of these eyes is oblong, this being caused by the super-imposition of the forehead, is a peculiarly human or intellectual characteristic. The forehead, which, because of its great breadth, seems lower than it really is, does not oppress the eyes, but shadows them, and produces an intense force of expression, physical and mental. When seen in profile, the foremost edges of the lips and chin touch upon a line which, extended vertically, passes far within the contour of the cranium; from the eyes to the base of the head behind, the form keeps a noble and regular curve of the highest quality. The ears are fine, but large, to go with the nose and brow, and differ in their forms. Mr. Woolner has not shirked the difficulty of costume, but faithfully and largely dealt with the coat, necktie and collar, such as are now worn. There is a startling difference between this bust and that which the same artist has recently finished of Cobden, for his widow. A repetition of the second work is also nearly completed, and to be presented by the lady to the Emperor of the French. In its way, the execution of the latter is equal to that of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

At Messrs. Colnaghi's may be seen a very graceful and simple portrait statue of a youth, life sized, the work of Mr. Holmes Cardwell, of Rome. The design gives us a handsome boy, seated, with a dog-collar in his hand, looking as if towards the animal to which it belongs; the right foot is placed so as to rest beneath the knee of the left leg, a very pretty action, conceived with much natural feeling. The face is excellently carved, and expressive, without being sentimental. The boy wears a sort of kilt, has bare legs and a loose-fitting jacket. This modern costume is treated with much elegance.

A very large and handsome chapel of brick has been recently completed in Westminster, from designs by Mr. W. F. Poulton, of Reading. The style is Romanesque, treated with unusual lightness, if compared with that of examples previously erected in that style in this country: the shafts are of stone; the dressings are of the same material, set in white and red bricks, the latter being disposed in bands on the exterior; there is a campanile at the south-west angle, 145 feet high. The interior has two galleries, with fronts of open ironwork. The height is 50 feet; length, 130 feet; width, 67 feet. There are twelve exits; the chapel will accommodate 3,000 persons. Attached are residences, school-rooms, vestries, and a lecture-hall, capable of holding 600 persons. The total cost was about 18,000£.

We are glad to observe that Mr. Ashworth, the architect, has disclaimed all responsibility in the destruction of the Norman tower of the lately destroyed church of St. Mary Major, at Exeter.

The next portion of Worcester Cathedral which

is destined to undergo the process of "restoration" is the cloisters. It is expected that the removal of the numerous coats of whitewash by which these portions of the conventional buildings have been covered will display some excellent sculptured decorations. The old glazing of the arcade is to be replaced; this is what we should like to see done in every such case. At Westminster nothing is more needed; there the tracery which is ancient is in a deplorable state of decay, and almost worn out of form; that portion which is modern could not be injured by the introduction of glass; that which is ancient must soon be replaced; the heads of the openings, at any rate, should be glazed. The cloisters at Worcester are of Perpendicular origin, but uncertain date; the tracery, such as it is, is not much more than a century old; the vaulting is lierne; in the west walk in the ancient lavatory; in the north walk, near the west corner, is the well-known epitaph, "Misererimus," placed over the grave of the Rev. Thomas Morris, minor Canon, a non-juror, at the date of the Revolution, who gave up his preferments for conscience sake.

In Guildhall, London, hangs an enormous picture, painted by Sir R. Kerr Porter, in 1800, representing the Battle of Cressy; one might rather say the ruins of a picture. The work being nearly twenty feet high, by thirty feet long, has been taken off the stretching frame, and rolled up. We are afraid that rats have made free with the edges of the canvas.

The under-mentioned works escaped our first examination of the General Exhibition of Water Colour Drawings. A Norwegian fiord-like scene, painted opaquely, hardly and heavily, by Mr. J. H. Scott, *From Weson, looking towards Glarus* (No. 39), is still a solid and manly piece of work.—Mrs. Newton's studies, *A Jewess of Smyrna* (79), and *A Levantine Lady* (98), study in rose colour, are both excellent in their display of skill and sense of tint and tone.—*Evening* (93), by Mr. B. Bradley, calves, lambs and sheep in a meadow at close of a warm day, is very solid and beautiful: a capital study of tone in subdued light, with admirable colour.—Mr. F. Dillon's *Sketch on the Grand Canal, Venice* (120), is decidedly the best picture we have had from him.—There is much bad drawing, and some good, but rather dirty colour, in Miss R. Solomon's *Wounded Dove* (242).—*On the Ouse, York* (251), by Mr. H. Moore, is a homely subject, beautifully treated,—the gently curving Ouse, at evening. The distance here is remarkably tender in atmospheric effect, the picture full of colour and tone, the foreground one of the broadest and sweetest we have seen, almost worthy of David Cox, in another way than his; on the whole, the work is noble throughout, and would be perfect if the clouds were quieter in form and colour. *July Evening, near Loch Fyne* (285), is, in some respects, better than the above; the cattle and rocks are capital; the whole a fine piece of faithful colouring. The picture of evening in a mountain country (302), by the same, is solemn, without affectation of force, and, as many other pictures by Mr. Moore are, commendable in a high degree for that display of feeling for composition which goes so far to make a work of Art.—*Meditation* (262), by Mr. J. D. Linton, a female, half length, is solidly and soundly drawn, with good character.—*A Twilight Study* (259), by Mr. J. C. Moore, is highly poetical.—Mr. A. Ditchfield's *Sunset* (361), a meadow, with a sparse line of trees against a sober sky, is very solid and original.—No. 368, Franciscan fishermen, one of whom has just made a capture, while both anxiously wade in the stream until it is secured, by Mr. J. E. Hodgson, can hardly be called a picture, but is a capital, humorous study.—*Evening, near Llyn Coe, Cader Idris* (587), a last gleam of sunlight on the back of that long line of cliffs they call the "Cader," a chilly, gleaming brook, and a rank expanse of marsh, is painted so well as to make a capital picture, by Mr. R. T. Pain.—Miss S. Beale's *Rest, Swanage* (379)—a boy supine on the bank of a brook, close to an ancient garden wall, fading sunlight in the sky—is very feelingly and solidly treated. The trees, although

they are not quite satisfactory, evince much discernment in colour.—Mr. Fenn's *Entrance to Glen Finlas, Brig of Tura* (367), is the work of an excellent artist, noteworthy for being well conceived as a whole, not as a mere study of a part of a picture.—We are bound to commend Mr. R. P. Burcham's charmingly faithful study, *Langdale, Westmoreland* (389), as seen from the river Brathay,—also Miss H. Stanmore's cleverly executed and pretty sketch *From the Beach, Sidmouth* (371).

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

THE STATE ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

THE following facts and figures respecting the constitution of our London orchestras, furnished to us by an orchestral artist, may be justifiably laid before the public at the time being, when as a result of the Royal Academy of Music we have been assured, till many have believed it, that our orchestras have been mainly fed from that source.

Orchestra of the Royal Italian Opera—eighty-seven members, of whom seventy-one are English. Seventeen of these have been students at the Royal Academy of Music; four of whom, double bass, viola, trumpet and horn, are principal instruments—not a player in this orchestra on harp, flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, or trombone (all these rather essential to the well-doing of an orchestra) having proceeded from that school.—*Orchestra of Her Majesty's Theatre*—upwards of eighty players—of whom forty are English, and six from the Royal Academy. Not one of these a principal instrument.—*Orchestra of the Philharmonic Society* (some seventy in number?) including fifteen Royal Academicians, but numbering only four principal instruments from Tenterden Street: a violin, viola, violoncello and bassoon.—*Orchestra of the Musical Society*—eighty-five in number—sixty-nine English members; seventeen of these from the Royal Academy, six of whom take principal instruments.—*Orchestra of the New Philharmonic Society*—ninety-seven players in number—seventy-three of whom are English—sixteen from the Royal Academy; five principal instruments from that source.—*Orchestra of the Sacred Harmonic Society*:—here the principal instruments are the same as those of the Royal Italian Opera.

What makes the above list the more remarkable is the fact, that the Academicians specified as *principal instruments* are only nine in number; the same proficients being, as usage is, retained in most of our orchestras. It results, then, that the claim of utility in this department of Music, which has again and again been urged in defence of the Royal Academy, when anatomized, shrinks into a modest compass. Setting aside the pianoforte students—who form a group apart—the number of competent instrumental solo-players who have been turned out, during the last thirty years, is some half a score. These things, we submit, should have been examined, and not taken for granted, ere the Government vote was passed—on the passing of which, we are invited to base some hope of giving life to what is virtually dead, and to add worth to what has proved itself so insufficiently worthless.

MR. HENRY LESLIE'S CHOIR.—This is now one of the most steadily established and interesting musical entertainments we have in London; ranking, according to its order, with the Orchestral Concerts of Mr. Halle, at Manchester, and those at the Crystal Palace. In proof, we may cite a few words from the short introduction to the programme of Thursday week's concert:—"Ten seasons have passed since the formation of the choir. . . . Sixty-four concerts have been given, which have comprised six hundred and seventy-one native, and three hundred and eleven foreign, compositions. Of course many of these performances were repetitions, but above one hundred works have been presented to the public for the first time." This is a welcome reminder,—and to this it should be added, that the performances have always been of good quality, frequently everything that could be desired; and that such occasional falterings and inequalities as are inevitable to the performances of a body of unaccompanied voices, have been gradually

reduced and amended by intelligent superintendence and strict rehearsal. And, as never fails to happen, and as we shall never cease to preach, increasing success has followed as a sure consequence of honest effort and original enterprise.

Among the most interesting pieces at this sixty-fifth concert were new Part Songs, by Mr. Barnby (whose music is always vocal and delicate), by Mr. Leslie himself: one (*encored*) a setting of Shakespeare's delicious lines, commencing—

How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank!
Bennet's madrigal, 'Flow, O my tears,' excellently performed, and 'As Vesta was,' by Weelkes, deservedly *encored*. A happier selection could hardly have been made. The interspersed solo music was contributed by Miss Austine, a new pianist, of whom we may speak on future occasion, and by Miss Ada Jackson, who, as a singer, made a most favourable impression. The modest choice of her songs, no less than the sympathetic quality of her voice, and the refinement of her manner, make it clear that she has in her the right spirit of a young artist (belonging to an artistic family). As such, she may prove a choice acquisition to our company of singers; supposing her studies carefully carried forward. One more incident of the evening must be commented on for another reason. Mr. Sims Reeves, who had been engaged, was disabled at the last hour from appearing; and who can wonder, seeing that every third person in the room was touched by, or advertising to, the epidemic influences of the most trying season in our recollection? This Mr. Leslie stated, with as much manly common sense as consideration; but not without cries of ridicule and aversion from some among the audience, as might befit a Caribbean riot, but not a company of educated women and men. There are "roughs" elsewhere than on a Guildford causeway; and wherever such folk are encountered, they should be "put down," as they were on this occasion, and "shown up," as they are here. Mr. Sims Reeves had sent a deputy in the person of Mr. Wilby Cooper, and was additionally replaced by the new tenor, Mr. Leigh Wilson. This gentleman has an agreeable voice, sufficient in compass, and capable in power. He has further time before him, to turn aside from the false road on which he seems to have entered, to judge from what we heard. The method of his production of tone is not good—neither is it pleasing, still less his articulation. He will do well to beware of drawing and exaggeration (the two vices go hand-in-hand); and this is said plainly, in the face of the extreme applause with which he was received; because we are satisfied that were he in the hands of a good master he might be made a great singer; but that, with a little more practice, and a few more plaudits, his effects and defects may become incurable. Too many are the promising persons who have been spoilt in England by erroneous training and premature applause.

STRAND.—'The Fly and the Web' is a new piece by Mr. A. C. Troughton, which is distinguished by some good dialogue, as well as effective situations. The subject, which is simple, is divided into two acts, and shows the peril in which a merchant's wife, during her husband's absence abroad, is entangled in consequence of the attentions of Mr. Glitter (Mr. Price), a fashionable gentleman, with whom she has become acquainted. Fortunately for the lady, her escape is secured by the care of Mr. Truman (Mr. Parselle), her husband's friend, who now acts as his confidential clerk. Mr. Glitter carries on, at the same time, a correspondence with the waiting-maid (Miss Raynham), and through this he is betrayed into a position in which he incurs a ludicrous danger, and at the same time shows the inherent baseness of his character. Miss Ada Swanborough and Miss Raynham both acted with great spirit, and indeed with much elaboration of style, the latter being required by the turns and transitions with which the author has furnished the dialogue. The curtain fell to applause, and Mr. Troughton may be congratulated on having obtained a legitimate success.

SURREY.—On Monday Miss Avonia Jones appeared at this theatre in an adaptation to the

boards, by a novel of 'La' a reputation of the married a subject modern state not in tre... essentia... The adapt... arran... sible for h... them as the Haller. U... there is al... German... actress another w... 'East Lyn... and death... the argu... comparati... think, ha... which regu... tional dia... sitting, b... assume a... pathetic p... but in the recogni... the sens... suffers un... her elocut...

Mr. ... become su... concerts the 'Rom... which ap... chester, -rages' (w... think of i... still, Her... His sing... Enquist... Mass, or... been so... there at... its being... present t... to come... Madam... London... will com... the cleve... Madame... The attempt... Astley's... singers... Mr. ... time pa... country... with his... Tonneli... conduct... Mr. ... whose a... overlook... tained b... of educ... course... Grand... - On th... anniver... early c... was per...

M. ... a burle... and Co... seems the co... least, w... such w... disprop... ligence...

boards, by Mr. John Oxenford, of Mrs. Wood's novel of 'East Lynne.' Miss Jones has acquired a reputation in the colonies for her delineation of the *Lady Isabel*, the Earl's daughter, who had married a country attorney. We cannot say that the subject has any special qualities for the modern stage. Its resemblance in theme, though not in treatment, to Kotzebue's 'Stranger,' prevents us from feeling that sense of novelty which is essential to the entire success of a new play. The adapter has shown the utmost skill in his arrangement of the materials; but it was impossible for him to make so good an acting play of them as that which displays the contrition of Mrs. Haller. Unfortunately, in this kind of subject, there is always a difficulty in the *dénouement*. In the German drama it is left to the discretion of the actress. One lady concludes it with a death, another with a reconciliation. The drama of 'East Lynne' concludes with the lady's repentance and death. The first three acts, or "parts," bring the argument to a climax; but the fourth is comparatively ineffective. Miss Jones might, we think, have better suited her peculiar powers, which require declamation rather than conversational dialogue. Much of this the lady delivered sitting, but contrived even in that posture to assume a picturesque attitude. In the more pathetic portions she rose to some tragic intensity; but in the familiar passages the audience appeared to recognize a want of interest, sometimes because the sense was not clearly caught. Miss Jones suffers under some inability to give distinctness to her elocutionary utterances.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.

Mr. Halle does not "hold his hand," neither become supine as a concert projector. At his late concerts he has given the Ball movement from the 'Romeo and Juliet' Symphony of M. Berlioz, which appears to have found small favour in Manchester.—Cherubini's Overture to 'Le Abencérage' (which it would be dangerous, of course, to think of in London!),—and, what is more audacious still, Herr Abert's excellent 'Columbus' Symphony. His singers have been Miss L. Pyne and Mdlle. Enequist.—The effect produced by M. Gounod's Mass, on its third performance in Manchester, has been so great that it may be possibly repeated there at no remote period. There is some talk of its being ventured in London; but this, at our present rate of proceeding, can hardly be expected to come to pass for the next half dozen years.

Madame Schumann announces her return to London in March.—M. Rubinstein, too, it is said, will come to England this season.—Herr Auer, the clever young violinist, is also announced.—Madame Parepa has returned to England.

The Orchestra gives a rumour of another attempt at English Opera about to be made at Astley's, with Mr. and Mrs. Haigh as principal singers.

Mr. Cooper, the violinist, who has for some time past been leading a migratory life in the country, at the head of an English Opera company, with his wife, under the travelling name of Madame Tonnelier, for *prima donna*, has been appointed conductor of the Belfast Anacreontic Society.

Mr. Alfred Holmes, one of the two brothers whose admirable violin-playing has been too much overlooked in their native country, has been retained by the French Government to give a course of educational chamber concerts, as part of the course of study followed in the Lycée Louis le Grand.

On the 27th of January, the hundred and tenth anniversary of Mozart's birthday, one of the master's early operas, 'Zaida,' which is entirely unknown, was performed at Frankfort.

M. Offenbach, the indefatigable, is at work on a burlesque, 'Robinson Crusoe,' by MM. Crémieux and Cormon, for the Opéra Comique. The tide seems "setting in" against "sensation" operas, the combinations of which are, for the moment at least, well nigh exhausted. The small number of such works which keep the stage, and its entire disproportion to the vast outlay of time and intelligence invested in their production, are matters

well worth being taken to heart by all who would attack the theatre. Whereas one huge piece of machinery after another has gone down into the bottomless pit of oblivion, 'Il Barbier,' 'La Sonnambula,' 'Fra Diavolo,' and 'Le Domino Noir' still keep their places.

The scraps of news from Spain are few and far between. The *Gazette Musicale* mentions an opera, 'The Lovers of Teruel,' by M. Aguirre, which continues to "draw good houses" in Valencia. Miss Laura Harris is announced as having greatly pleased the public at the Théâtre de l'Oriente at Madrid. Verily, the Spanish opera public must be pleased with very small things, if this be the truth.

It becomes day by day more and more difficult, apparently, to ascertain what really is Italian success — what is not. Up to this time, we have no clear idea how the best baritone in Europe (Mr. Santley) has really fared in Milan. It appears, however, that the production of 'L'Africaine,' for which he was expressly retained, has been adjourned.—The lady who sang in that perilous opera at Bologna, Mdlle. Fermi, is written of in the very highest terms. If a tithe of the praise be real, she is worth looking for; and (like Mara) she has more chances than the ordinary ones of proving a thorough vocal artist, from having begun her musical life as a violinist.

The *Boccherini* journal mentions an opera, 'Anelda da Salerno,' which has been brought forward at Brescia, the music by Il Maestro Vicuni.

Another picaroon drama, 'Héloïse Pasanquet,' has been produced at the Gymnase. Some mystery is made as to the authorship, but the prevailing idea is that it may be ascribed to MM. Durantin and A. Dumas, junior.

The manifestations of negro taste in music are odd. The power hitherto shown by the race is largely imitative, and seems incapable of being ripened beyond a certain point. We have not forgotten Miss Greenfield's voice, so singular in compass, nor her accuracy of ear. Now, we have just been hearing of a blind phenomenon in New York, who may possibly come to this country. We are assured, on scientific testimony, that he can play a melody with the right hand in one key, and a different one, with the *left*, in another, and sing a third, maintaining all the three with unerring accuracy. Ugly and unartistic as such an exhibition must be, it argues a musical organization of no common order, out of which something might be made. The only analogous feat we can call to mind is one of the freaks of Malibran, whom we once heard rehearse Cimarosa's fine *scena*, 'Deh parlate,' from beginning to end, half a tone sharper than the band, with the set purpose of teasing the conductor and orchestra.

The death is announced, at the age of sixty-nine, of Mr. Philip Joseph Salomons, long known as one of the most eminent of our musical amateurs, in the best sense of the word. Although Mr. Salomons only devoted himself to music from his love and regard for the art, his acquirements as a performer on the double bass, and his very extensive acquaintance with the scores and writings of the classical masters, were most remarkable; and, as an orchestral player, he had many of the characteristics of Dragonetti, of whom he was an admiring pupil and disciple. Mr. Salomons played with

knowledge of this plant as a native of Britain we are obliged to F. B. Wright, Esq., who found it growing abundantly in the rocky clefts of the island called Steep Holmes in the Severn, in August, 1803. The peony has probably grown there from time immemorial." I may add, that I have myself found a specimen on the rocky banks of the Ribble above Clitheroe (in May, 1852). I do not suppose that it has been found wild in any other localities.

E. F.

Destruction and Devastation at Wells.—That singularly picturesque walk round the Moat of the Palace, Wells, is now fast being ruined. An order has been issued to lop all the tall elm-trees that lined it so magnificently, and in a few days that once superb and ancient avenue will be none other than a row of unsightly pollard stumps. The rookery has already disappeared. That unrivalled combination of cathedral towers, transept, choir end, together with the bastion and gateway turrets, broken up, and interlaced, in every conceivable form and variety of natural beauty by the encircling branches of those noble trees; the exquisite curves of which, mingling with the more rigid architectural lines of the surrounding buildings, being again reflected in the still waters of the Moat, and which has filled every gazer, be he resident or visitor, with delight, has now for ever lost its especial and peculiar charm; and the eye is pained, and the mind vexed, by seeing what was a lovely and graceful adjunct a week ago, only deformity and ugliness. These trees are ancient, possibly more than two centuries old, and they never can, by any natural power or vitality, regain their original vigour and beauty, but be as long as they stand only stunted, graceless, formal pollards.

The pretext urged is, that if not lopped, they will, owing to their great height, be eventually uprooted, as a few have been during the heavy gales of past years; although not one suffered in any way during the terrific tempests of last month! The same, be it observed, may be said of every lofty tree in any one of our English parks and hedge-rows. Surely it would be more conservative, more consistent with those in authority in a place so deeply interesting as Wells, to have planted between each one of these venerable trees, and to have risked the storms of the unknown future, and the anticipated damage. Wells is no ordinary town; to the tourist it possesses an interest equal to any city in Europe; great care should, therefore, be taken that its natural charms are not defaced. This moated walk, with the fortified walls of Edwardian times on the one side of the water, and the tall and stately avenue on the other, with such objects as Glastonbury tor, Walcot hill, and the grassy plain of the episcopal meadows, seen between and beyond, had not its rival in England. Destruction like this is not felt only by the residents of Wells: it is a national loss, and every lover of the beautiful in Art and Nature hereafter visiting this peerless little city will feel it to be so.

C.

Wells, Feb. 6, 1866.

Musical Anecdotes.—Dr. Ludwig Nohl, the editor of Beethoven's and Mozart's Letters, publishes a series of musical letters in the Augsburg *Allgemeine Zeitung*, from which we gather the following anecdote current at Vienna, where many a tradition in reference to the great masters is still alive. In the summer of 1791 the young Lieut. von Malfatti resided at Baden, seeking to be relieved, by its healing mineral waters, from the effects and wounds of the last Turkish war. His lameness compelled him to spend the greater part of the day in his room on the ground-floor, where he sat at the window reading, but often enough glancing over his book towards the window opposite, also on the ground-floor, which was occupied by a young, slender woman, with raven locks. One day, towards evening, he observes a short, rather youthfully-looking man creep about the house of his fair *vis-à-vis*, look around him cautiously, and then attempt to scale the window of the lady. Herr von Malfatti hurries, as quickly as his limping will allow him to the protection of his lovely neighbour, collars the little man, and asks him roughly what he wanted there, pointing out to him that he had mistaken the window for the door. "Indeed, I

MISCELLANEA

Shakespeare's Peonies.—In your article on "Cassell's Illustrated Shakespeare" (Jan. 13th), you observe upon Steeven's reading "peonied and lilyed brims": "secondly we apprehend that peonies are rarely found on the banks of rivers." I feel sure that your candour will excuse any fact, however small, that may throw a light upon a reading of Shakespeare, or that may illustrate his knowledge of nature; and I copy the following from Sir J. E. Smith (*English Botany*):—"For a

hope I may be permitted to enter the apartments of my wife," was the answer of Mozart,—for it was he who had arrived from Vienna unexpectedly to visit his Stenerl, wishing to manage a surprise for her when she came home from her evening walk. His 'Requiem' and 'Zauberflöte,' which were at the time occupying his thoughts, did not prevent him from choosing with the greatest care suitable lodgings at Baden for his "Herzenweisbchen." He had written to his friend, the choral director at Baden,—"Dearest Stoll! Do not be a Poll!—secondly, look out for my wife a small lodging: the principal requisite of which must be, that it is on the ground-floor." His wife was at that time in an interesting way, and he was in great anxiety lest his "Stanzi Marini" should have a fall. She was delivered on the 26th of July in the same year of a son, Wolfgang Amadeus the second. In return for this, and other little services which his friend did for him, Mozart lent him sometimes one of his Masses, and even composed for him later at Baden his divine 'Ave Verum.' Lieut. Malfatti was not a little surprised when he found out that he had flirted with Madame Mozart, who was not at all insensible to the homage paid to her charms. Through this little adventure he became well acquainted with Mozart. His nephew, who told the anecdote to Herr Nohl, often heard his uncle relate it laughingly.—Not so pleasant is what people repeat about Beethoven's family and relatives. It is sufficiently known what Beethoven had to suffer from these and his brothers' low marriages; but his own character shines forth in its moral dignity by the new facts which Herr Nohl has picked up, and by a number of hitherto unpublished letters to one of his brothers. These facts are, however, of so desolate a nature, that Herr Nohl only refers to them because they afford him an opportunity of saying a word of apology and exoneration on Beethoven's much-blamed "nephew." The gifted boy was the only child of his parents; from his tender youth he was the witness of domestic quarrels arising out of the levity of his mother and the violent temper of his father. When the latter died his celebrated uncle acted in the place of parent, and in his elevated notions of duty and honour tried before all to separate him from his mother. She in her turn tried every means of stratagem and persuasion to chain the boy to her; she taught him to practise all sorts of falsehood, made him suspicious of his uncle and guardian, who, what between exaggerated love and exaggerated anger towards his nephew, certainly was not the man to lead him with a firm and gentle hand on the right path of life. It is well known, and but too true, what misery and trouble arose for Beethoven out of these family disputes; but not the less to be pitied was the child, who, between the over-strict zeal of duty on one side, and the utmost indulgence on the other, was thrown like a ball to and fro, and deviated so much from the straight line of conduct which alone leads to a blameless and happy life, that when a youth, for but a trifling reason, he attempted suicide to make an end at once of the conflict and contradiction of his life. But that his heart was sound at the core, though led astray, is proved not only by the excellent school testimonies, which Herr Nohl examined himself, but, by the fact that when left to himself after the death of his uncle, with the instinct of a well-organized nature, he took to an orderly and active life, married an excellent wife at Igau, and became the founder of a respectable family. His five children have become in their turn heads of families, and if they do not share the fame of the great composer, at least they have no part in the odium clinging to his brothers, but enjoy a respectability which will secure to the name of Beethoven, in the circles of Vienna middle-class life, respect and esteem. The youngest daughter of the ci-devant "nephew," Hermine von Beethoven, thirteen years old, shows much talent, and has just been received as pupil in the Conservatory of Vienna, where she is to perfect herself as a pianist under the direction of Professor Dachs.

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